



## **PLS 1315 Introduction to Horticulture**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II 2026

Instructor: Derald Harp, Professor  
Office Location: PSC 103  
Office Hours: 9 am, 1 pm, and 4 pm, MTWR  
Office Phone: (903) 886-5202  
University Email Address: Derald.Harp@etamu.edu

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook: **None**

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the basic concepts and skills utilized in horticulture. Students will receive an introduction to basic botanical concepts such as morphology, anatomy, taxonomy, physiology, genetics, and propagation as they apply to horticulture.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of and be able to communicate well concerning basic botanical concepts such as plant taxonomy, morphology, anatomy, physiology, mineral nutrition, reproduction, and genetics as they apply to horticultural crops.
2. Students will recognize plant responses to changing environmental conditions, such as drought, heat, cold, and changes in light (blue-light responses, red-light responses, photoperiodism)
3. Acquaint the student with the broad field of horticulture including greenhouse and nursery crops, ornamental horticulture, pomology, and olericulture.
4. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data.
5. Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and make appropriate use of evidence, data and technology where applicable.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

6. Students will be able to interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
7. Students will be able to engage with peers in a project that demonstrates their understanding of relevant course theories and concepts.

## GRADING

1. 5 exams	500 points
2. Final Exam	200 points
3. Assignments (10)	200 points
4. Group Assignment (1)	100 points
5. Grade Assignment	900+ = A
	800 – 899 = B
	700 – 799 = C
	600 – 699 = D
	below 600 = F

There will be no “Extra Credit” work offered.

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

*Please see class schedule in D2L for specific due dates for assignments and exams.*

<b>Week 1</b>	Introduction Vegetative Morphology Morphology Plant Names <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Assignments 1 &amp; 2</b></li> <li>• <b>Exam 1</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 2</b>	Plant Anatomy Photosynthesis Respiration Genetics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Assignments 3 &amp; 4</b></li> <li>• <b>Exam 2</b></li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b>	Seeds Asexual Propagation Growing Media Horticulture Structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Group project 1</b></li> <li>• <b>Assignments 5 &amp; 6</b></li> <li>• <b>Exam 3</b></li> </ul>

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**Week 4**      Landscape Design  
Plants and the Environment  
Soils

- **Assignments 7 & 8**
- **Exam 4**

**Week 5**      Turfgrass  
Fruits and Nuts  
Vegetables

- **Assignments 9 & 10**
- **Exam 5**

**Final Exam Thursday, August 6**

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

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## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Copying of others' work, use of disallowed material on exams, plagiarism in assignments, use of AI software to complete assignments, or cheating in any other form as defined by the instructor will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Multiple infractions will result in a grade of 'F' for the course and possible expulsion.

Assignments are due as posted in the Course Schedule. Late penalties are assessed as follows:

- Assignments will be graded on the Monday following submission. Assignments not submitted will be recorded as a zero.
- Assignments are not accepted via email.
- The student must contact the professor immediately with a valid excuse for assignments not submitted to receive full credit. Valid excuses include severe illness, natural disasters, and unforeseen circumstances that prevent timely submission. Unforeseen circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- 1 day late - 10% penalty
- 2 to 4 days late - 25% penalty
- 5 days to 1 week late - 50% penalty
- No work will be accepted that is more than 1 week past the due date.
- No work other than the Final Exam will be accepted after August 5.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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## University Specific Procedures

### Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

#### [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

#### [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

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<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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