



PLS 1307- Intro to Plant Science

Fall 2026 Syllabus

Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Grace Flusche Ogden

Office: AGET 249

Office Hours: MW 10-10:50 am AGET 249 or by appointment. I'm happy to meet via Zoom, Teams, or by phone- email me to set up a time.

Preferred form of communication: Email

E-mail: grace.ogden@etamu.edu

Expected response time: 48 hours

Course Purpose: Welcome to PLS 1307! This course is designed to introduce students to the principles of plant science and the role of plants in society from an agronomic viewpoint.

Course Text: "PLNT 1213 Course Notes" by Beatrix Haggard. ISBN: 9781617406768. You may use the 5th, 6th, or 7th edition. There is a "Textbook Clarification" document on D2L to help you determine the appropriate page numbers for each chapter and any associated assignments. Available for approximately \$50 at the campus bookstore.

Learning Outcomes

- Explain the role of plants in society
- Classify crops by their biology and use
- Recognize agronomically important plant parts and functions
- Explain processes associated with plant growth and development
- Identify important agronomic crops
- Explain crop production practices, including tillage, planting, nutrient management, and pest management
- Describe methods of crop improvement
- Analyze socially important issues in crop agriculture

Grading

Course Grading: Grades will be based on quizzes, homework, assignments, and three exams. 1000 points will be available.

A= 900-1000

B= 800-899

C= 700-799

D= 600-699

F= <500

Course Work Category	# of opportunities available	Maximum Points
Quizzes	18	350
Homework	11	350
Exams	3	300
Total		1000

Grade Disputes: Students have five days from the date of any grade assessment to dispute their grade. Email Dr. Ogden with PLS 1307 Grade Dispute in the subject line. It is the student's responsibility to check their grades on D2L regularly.

Course Work

Quizzes: Approximately 18 quizzes pertaining to lecture content will be given throughout the semester. Quizzes will be provided via D2L.

Homework: Textbook chapter HW are pulled from the following chapters (6th edition of the text): 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 (set up online as 4 quizzes), 11, 12, and 14. Two additional unique assignments (not from the textbook) will be assigned. Homework will be submitted via D2L. Note: Agronomic Math Problem Sets 1-4 are assigned as quizzes on D2L for ease of grading, but they are counted as homework.

Exams: Three exams will be administered. Each exam will be worth 100 points, with the potential for up to 10 bonus points. Exams will be administered on D2L. You may use a calculator for any math questions. Exams are open note/book. Talking to your classmates or others about the exam while the exam is actively open is considered cheating and will not be tolerated.

Bonus: Bonus points may be acquired through submitting Agronomic Math Bonus Problems, through bonus questions on exams, volunteering at Twin Oaks Farm for Experiential Learning on the scheduled days/times, assisting with soil sampling on the scheduled day/time, submitting proof of course evaluation completion, or other specified bonus opportunities. You must email me a picture of you attending any event you are requesting bonus points for. A detailed schedule of opportunities is posted on D2L.

Late work policy: Late work must be submitted on or before December 1 at 11:59 pm for grading consideration. For assignments with due dates after December 1, I will accept them up to 1 day after their due date.

Class Policy on Use of Artificial Intelligence: You may use AI or AI-enabled software to create study questions, evaluate the clarity of your work, or other supportive actions. You may not use AI to generate work that you turn in as your own original thought. If I suspect submitted work was completed by or heavily influenced by AI, I will email you via the email address you've listed on D2L to discuss the matter with you, and offer a resubmission opportunity *if time allows*. IF you do not respond to my email within the specified time frame (default of 3 business days), I will assign a 0 to the work.

Expectations

1. Read or watch class content and follow the class schedule.
2. Complete homework assignments, quizzes, and exams using your own textbook or other non-AI resources.
3. Do not use AI or AI-enabled software to complete any assignments, quizzes, or exams.
4. Ask for help when you need it!
5. **Academic Honesty.** See East Texas A&M University Academic Honesty policy at the end of the syllabus.

Classroom conduct: Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave class.

Correspondence: E-mail is the best (only) way to contact me, besides coming to my office. Office visits are encouraged! ☺

Please put "PLS 1307" in the subject line of all emails pertaining to class. Include your full name in your email.

Tentative Schedule

Topic	Assignment
Syllabus	Review Syllabus
History of Agriculture and Food Security	History of Ag & Food Security quiz
Plant Morphology	Plant Morphology HW and quizzes (2)
Plant Categorization	Plant Categorization HW and quiz
Growth & Development	Growth & Development HW and quiz
Exam 1 available on D2L tentative due date: September 25	DO NOT USE AI
Plant Growth Processes	Plant Growth Processes HW Study GDD Math!!
Centers for Diversity	Quiz
Crops of the World	Crops of the World HW and quizzes (2)
Cropping Systems	Quizzes (2)
Agronomic Problem Solving	Agronomic Problem Solving HW. Each set (1-4) is available on D2L as a quiz- they will count together as 1 HW. Agronomic Math Bonus Available- Due June 26
Soils	Soils HW and quiz
Soil Fertility	Soil Fertility HW and quiz
Exam 2 available on D2L tentative due date: November 4	DO NOT USE AI
Tillage & Soil Conservation, Seeding & Planting	Tillage Photo Comparison & Reflection HW
Seeding & Planting, Crop Improvement	Seeding & Planting HW
Crop Improvement & GMOs	GMOs, Crop Improvement, & Pests HW and quiz
Pest Management	Pest Management quiz
Course Review	Plant Science Review Quiz Course Evaluation
Final Exam available on D2L due date: December 9	DO NOT USE AI

Mandatory University Addendums to Syllabus

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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@tamuc.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, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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

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.

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>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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

Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/document/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm1.d.pdf>

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

<http://www.tamuc.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 East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed

Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

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

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

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Use of AI in Coursework

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty