



## **PLS 1315, Intro to Horticulture**

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2026

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Desire Djidonou, (Dr. D)  
Associate Professor – Urban/Sustainable Horticulture  
**Office Location:** Dallas campus, Room 2019 Hydroponics  
**Office Hours:** M&W 11:00 am – 12:00 pm; (Dallas campus)  
**Office Phone:**  
**Office Fax:**  
**University Email Address:** [desire.djidonou@etamu.edu](mailto:desire.djidonou@etamu.edu)  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** email

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Time & location:** Class will meet M&W from 10:00a - 10:50a Campus: Dallas,  
Room: 2021 Agriculture Wet Lab.

#### **Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

**Required Textbook:** None

### **Course Description**

An overview of the concepts and practices used to grow horticultural crops. Topics covered include plant morphology, anatomy, taxonomy, growth and development, genetics, and physiological processes. The influence of environmental factors on plant growth and development; general considerations related to the production practices and economic importance of some horticultural crops will be covered in details.

**Prerequisites:** None.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the main subdivisions of horticulture as an industry.
2. Describe the primary structure of plant cell, tissue, and organs, their functions and importance to plant growth and development.
3. Explain the processes of photosynthesis and respiration (the carbon cycle).
4. Describe the mechanisms of movement of water and mineral nutrients into and throughout the plant.
5. Describe the principles of efficient soil, substrates, water, and fertility management for sustainable production of horticultural crops.
6. Demonstrate effective written, graphic, and oral communication skills through the delivery of project presentations.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Basic knowledge of Microsoft office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) and familiarity with D2L. Students will need reliable internet access to retrieve course materials and complete online quizzes and exams if needed.

### Instructional Methods

Lectures: The lecture materials (PowerPoint slides, video recording, and additional reading materials) will be made available on the course D2L page for students to download.

### Student Responsibilities

#### Expectation of Students

1. Students are expected to attend all lectures unless ill;
2. Be on time to class;
3. Completion of homework assignments and exams by the due dates;
4. Late submission of assignments or make-up of exams and other work in this course will only be allowed for legitimate, pre-excused absences.

## ASSESSMENTS and GRADING

#### Course evaluation

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Exam 1 .....              | 100 points |
| Exam 2 .....              | 100 points |
| Exam 3 .....              | 100 points |
| Final.....                | 100 points |
| Student Presentation..... | 100 points |
| Homework Assignments..... | 50 points  |

Exams: (Multiple Choice, T/F, Matching, Short Answer, Critical essay): The exams will include material from lecture and additional reading assignments. Exam dates are given below in the tentative semester schedule.

Student presentations: With the instructor pre-approval, each student will pick one horticultural crop (flower, vegetable or herb crop, fruit tree). Each student will conduct a

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literature search on the selected species and write a term paper on his/her crop describing how to grow the crop from seed to harvest (propagation, transplanting, fertilization and pest management plan, harvest and post-harvest handling, marketing. Each student will give a class presentation on his/her findings.

Homework assignments: 1-2 questions will be given throughout the semester to be answered using reading materials and/or other sources. Homework assignments will be posted on D2L and due by the following lecture.

## **Grade Assignment**

Letter grades for the course will be assigned according to the chart below:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

## **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)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## **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](mailto: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

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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**

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

Attendance to lectures and lab activities are required unless ill.

### **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.

## **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>

### **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>

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## **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>

## **AI use in course**

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

## **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@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

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

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

## **East A&M Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at East A&M, 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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

## **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

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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 Texas A&M University-Commerce 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.

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 A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

### Lecture Schedule

| Week | Date            | Lecture Topic                                          |
|------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Aug 24 – 28     | Welcome / Course overview – syllabus                   |
|      |                 | The Horticulture Industry                              |
| 2    | Aug 31 – Sep 04 | Cultivated Plants: Naming, Classifying                 |
|      |                 | Plant Anatomy: Cell and Tissues                        |
| 3    | Sep 07 – 11     | <b>Mon, Sep 7 Labor Day – No Class</b>                 |
|      |                 | Vegetative Morphology: Root, Stem, and Leaves          |
| 4    | Sep 14 – 18     | Reproductive Morphology: Flowers, Fruits and Seeds     |
|      |                 | <b>Exam 1</b>                                          |
| 5    | Sep 21 – 25     | Photosynthesis and Respiration                         |
| 6    | Sep 28 – Oct 02 | Plant Growth and Development                           |
| 7    | Oct 05 – 09     | Environmental Factors and Plant Growth and Development |
| 8    | Oct 12 – 16     | <b>Exam 2</b>                                          |
|      |                 | Genetics and Plant Propagation                         |
| 9    | Oct 19 – 23     | Soil and Growing Media                                 |
| 10   | Oct 26 – 30     | Plant Nutrition and Fertilizers                        |
|      |                 | Pests and Diseases                                     |
|      |                 | <b>Exam 3</b>                                          |
| 11   | Nov 02 – 06     | Greenhouses and Related Climate-Controlling Structures |
|      |                 | Floriculture                                           |
| 12   | Nov 09 – 13     | Hydroponics                                            |
|      |                 | Nursery and Landscape                                  |
| 13   | Nov 16 – 20     | Vegetable and Fruit Production                         |
|      |                 | Student presentation                                   |
| 14   | Nov 23 – 27     | Student Presentation                                   |
|      |                 | <b>No Class (Thanksgiving Break)</b>                   |
| 15   | Dec 01 – 04     | Student Presentation                                   |
|      |                 | Student Presentation                                   |
| 16   | Dec 07          | <b>FINAL EXAM (10:30 – 12:30)</b>                      |

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