



PLS 420.001/ PLS 420L.01L Crop Practicum

Lecture and Lab

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. David Drake

Office Location: Plant Sciences Center

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Phone: (903)468-3295

Office Fax: (903)468-3291

University Email Address: david.drake@etamu.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials-

Textbook Not Required.

Resources-

Field meetings, printed materials, professional growers and extension agents.

Course Description-Hours: 3

Crop Production Practicum. Three semester hours (lecture & lab). This is a unique "hands on" and in-person study of crop production practices in this area.

Students are trained and assist with planting, growing, harvesting, and marketing a crop: (a) Wheat or Oats; (b) Corn; (c) Grain Sorghum; (d) Cotton. Students meet during the semester to learn and produce the crop. Students are encouraged to communicate with the professor the semester before taking the class to participate in practices such as field preparation and planting that take place outside of the semester schedule. A report, including important practices, concepts learned, costs and returns, will be due upon completion of the project. Course may be repeated when subject varies, up to a maximum of 9 hours.

Prerequisite: PLS 115.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, student will be able to:

1. Create and develop a crop production plan.
2. Identify, anticipate, track and troubleshoot problems and pests associated with growing a crop.
3. Plant, grow, and harvest a specific crop using standard production techniques.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student Responsibility:

- 1) Submit a schedule of times available to work their farming project and telephone numbers where they can be reached. Students are encouraged to stay in touch with Dr. Drake about field conditions. The most conscientious students try to be available to work when called.
- 2) Students will perform routine maintenance check before each use of equipment (check all fluids, air; visual check for loose, missing, or broken parts).
- 3) Student will prepare field to be planted (this will include both primary and secondary tillage).
- 4) Student will prepare for planting by loading seed and fertilizer and adjusting planting rates.
- 5) Student will plant his/her own crop.
- 6) Student will cultivate and spray crop as needed.
- 7) Student will harvest his/her own crop.
- 8) Student will perform maintenance and repairs on equipment, if needed.

GRADING

Grade will be based on level of participation in course. The successful student will complete all aspects of crop production and attend scheduled course meetings. A paper will be submitted at the conclusion of their project. Students can keep up to \$1000 in profits, and CCRI will dispense profit check to student when final paper is submitted and approved. If final report is not submitted within 90 days after harvest, profit will be forfeited. Grading will be based on the following:

Course Meetings	40 points
Field Work	40 points
Final Report	20 points
Total	100 points

A = 90 to 100 points

B = 80 to 89 points

C = 70 to 79 points
D = 60 to 69 points
F = below 60 points

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

-MS word
-Email

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Course will be taught face to face with some assignments requiring MS word.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Communication with the instructor will be officially through emails, weekly crop meetings and in the field. The successful student will be available to work on crop project when called upon.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Students will adhere to all safety precautions and practices discussed throughout the crop practicum course. Safety should be a top priority to all individuals involved at all times.

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. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

Campus Concealed Carry

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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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.

Nondiscrimination Notice

A&M-Commerce 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

Students with Disabilities

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

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Waters Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Erica.Williams@tamuc.edu

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

- Field Preparation (April 2026)
- Planting (May 2026)
- Management (May to October 2026)
- Harvest (October 2026)
- Ginning, fiber quality, marketing (November to December 2026)