



PLS 324, World Herbs and Vegetables

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Desire Djidonou, (Dr. D), Associate Professor – Urban/Sustainable Horticulture

Office Location: Ag/ET 248

Office Hours: T&R 12 – 1 pm; (Ag/ET); or by appointment

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University Email Address: desire.djidonou@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

COURSE INFORMATION

Time & location: Asynchronous Web-based.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

There is no required textbook for this course. However, the lecture material is primarily derived from the following sources:

1. Rubatzky, V.E. and Yamaguchi, M. 1997. ***World Vegetables – Principles, Production and Nutritive Value*** (2nd edition). Chapman and Hall (publishers).
2. DeCoteau, D.R. 2000. ***Vegetable Crops***. Prentice Hall, 2000. ISBN 10:0139569960.
3. Swiader, J.M. and Ware, G.W. 2002. ***Producing Vegetable Crops*** (5th edition). Prentice Hall.
4. Welbaum, G.E. 2015. ***Vegetable Production and Practices***. CABI.
5. Wien, H.C. and Stützel, H. eds., 2020. ***The Physiology of Vegetable Crops*** (2nd edition). CABI.

Course Description

This course introduces the students to a comprehensive overview of major and minor vegetable crops and culinary herbs grown around the world, U.S., and Texas in terms of center of origin, history, classification, economic importance and marketing patterns, nutritional value, physiological growth and development patterns, and commercial production practices.

Prerequisites: PLS 1315 or PLS 1307

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should have:

1. Developed a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the classification systems of vegetable crops and culinary herbs, their importance economically and nutritionally.
2. Demonstrated proficiency in the environmental requirements, growth and development patterns, and optimum production practices for enhanced productivity of these major vegetables and herbs.
3. Developed knowledge for an in-depth discussion of current challenges related to the production and use of vegetables and herbs.

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 quizzes and exams if needed.

Instructional Methods

Lectures: Course materials (PowerPoint slides, additional reading materials, fact sheets, and other multimedia materials) will be available on the course D2L page.

Student presentations: With the instructor pre-approval, each student will pick one vegetable or herb crop (not covered in class by the instructor). Each student will conduct a literature search on the selected species and write a term paper on his/her crop describing the taxonomy, use and importance, propagation and production system, production challenges (pests), harvest and post-harvest handling, marketing, and recipes if possible. Each student will give a class presentation on his/her findings.

Student Responsibilities

Expectation of Students

1. Students are expected to review course materials within two days after being posted on D2L to follow the course progress;
2. Completion of homework assignments, quizzes, and exams by the due dates;
3. Late submission of assignments or make-up of quizzes, exams and other work in this course will only be allowed for legitimate, pre-excused absences.

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Course evaluation

Student's final grade will be based on 600 points total from exams, assignments, and student presentation and production reports

Exam 1.....	100 points
Exam 2.....	100 points
Exam 3.....	100 points
Student presentation.....	100 points
Homework Assignments	50 points

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

Student presentation: You will be required to submit an individual report and class presentation on your project that will be graded.

Homework assignments: Specific questions related to topics covered in lectures will be given to be answered using reading materials, and/or other written 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

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

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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 ETAMU 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>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity

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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

Gee Library- Room 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](#)

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

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas 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

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 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/34SafetyOf>

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[EmployeesAndStudents/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

100% Online

Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture Topic
1	Aug 20 – 21	Welcome / Course overview – syllabus, pre-course survey
2	Aug 24 – 28	Vegetables: Definition, Origin, Evolution, Domestication
3	Aug 31 – Sep 04	Vegetable Classification
4	Sep 07 – 11	Health Benefits of Vegetables and Economic Importance
		Vegetable Plant Growth and Development Patterns
		Principles of Vegetable Production Systems
5	Sep 14 – 18	EXAM 1
		Family Solanaceae: Tomato, Peppers, Potato, Eggplant
		Family Solanaceae: Tomato, Peppers, Potato, Eggplant
6	Sep 21 – 25	Family Cucurbitaceae: Cucumber, Watermelon, Cantaloupe, Squash
		Family Cucurbitaceae: Cucumber, Watermelon, Cantaloupe, Squash
7	Sep 28 – Oct 02	Family Asteraceae: Lettuce, Endive, Globe Artichoke
		Family: Lamiaceae: Basil, Mint, Rosemary
		Family: Lamiaceae: Basil, Mint, Rosemary
8	Oct 05 – 09	Family Rosaceae: Strawberries
		Family Brassicaceae: Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, bok choy, other
9	Oct 12 – 16	EXAM 2
		Family Amaryllidaceae/Liliaceae: onions, garlic, chives, shallots, and leeks.
10	Oct 19 – 23	Family Chenopodiaceae: Spinach, Swiss chard, Beets
		Family Fabaceae: Snap beans, peas,
11	Oct 26 – 30	Family Poaceae: Sweet corn
		Family Apiaceae: Carrot, Celery, Cilantro, Parsley, Dill
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12	Nov 02 – 06	Family Asparagaceae: Asparagus
		Family Convolvulaceae: Sweet potato
13	Nov 09 – 13	Student Presentation
		Student Presentation
14	Nov 16 – 20	Student Presentation
		Student Presentation
		Student presentation
15	Nov 23 – 27	No Class (Thanksgiving Break)
		Student Presentation
16	Dec 01 – 04	

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		Student Presentation
17	Dec 07 – 11	FINAL EXAM

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