



## PLS 506- Weed Science

### Fall 2026 Syllabus

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#### Course Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Grace Flusche Ogden

**Office:** AGET 249

**Office Hours:**

AGET 249-

Virtual appointments available by request. Send me an email.

**Preferred form of communication:** Email

**E-mail:** grace.ogden@etamu.edu

**Expected response time:** 48 hours

**Class time & Location:** F 9-9:50

**Course Purpose:** This course is designed to educate students about the ecology and management of weeds. Weeds and their impact will be presented through an agronomic lens.

**Course Text:** None required. Students who are eager to identify weeds or herbicides may purchase “Weeds of the South” or “The Herbicide Handbook”.

#### Graduate Student Learning Objectives

- Describe ideal weed characteristics.
- Identify and classify common and troublesome weeds found in Texas.
- Describe basic ecology of weeds and their impact on agriculture and society.
- Define the five methods of weed management.
- Recognize essential herbicides used in weed management.
- Name herbicide classification groups commonly used in crop production.
- Calculate sprayer calibration and formulate mixing solutions.
- Explain the impact of herbicide resistance on society.
- Assess solutions to challenges in modern weed management.
- Critique proposed weed management plans provided by governing bodies across the globe.
- Develop a weed management plan using course tools and literature.

#### Grading

**Course Grading:** Grades will be based on quizzes, assignments, one pressed plant collection, and two exams.

A= 1080+

B= 960-1079

C= 840-959

D= 720-839

F= <720

**Grade Disputes:** Students have seven days from the date of any grade assessment to dispute their grade. Email Dr.

| Course Work Category                 | # of opportunities available | Points |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| Quizzes                              | 10                           | 100    |
| Assignments                          | 6                            | 600    |
| Graduate Credit Specific Assignments | 2                            | 200    |
| Pressed Plant Collection             | 1                            | 100    |
| Exams                                | 2                            | 200    |
| Total                                |                              | 1200   |

Ogden with PLS 506 Grade Dispute in the subject line. It is the student's responsibility to check their grades on D2L regularly. If you think there is an error, you must alert Dr. Ogden within a week.

### Course Work

**Quizzes:** Approximately 10 quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Quizzes may be multiple choice, short answer, matching, or visually identifying plants or herbicide molecules. Quizzes may be delivered via D2L or during class sessions.

**Assignments:** Six assignments will be given throughout the semester. Assignments will include identifying weed characteristics of a selected weed, developing a crop specific weed management plan, a short essay on herbicide resistance, and more weed science related assignments that will deepen student engagement and understanding of weeds.

**Plant Press Collection:** You will be responsible for one plant press collection of 10 unique plants. Each plant press must include leaves, stems, and reproductive structures that are adequately dried and be adhered to an 8.5x11 inch paper. Each plant press will include typed information about the plant specimen, such as common and scientific name and location and date of collection. Plant presses should be appropriately bound or arranged in a binder for easy access to materials.

**Exams:** Two exams will be administered- one midterm and one final. Each exam will be worth 100 points, with the potential for up to 10 bonus points.

**GRADUATE CREDIT:** Any graduate student seeking graduate credit for this course will be asked to perform additional coursework. Expected course work will include: article readings and a response reflection (100 pts) and one weed management plan followed by a class presentation over their plan (100 pts). Students may submit their own focus for the management plan for approval or choose from the following list: combatting herbicide resistance with IPM management, herbicide resistance impact on weed management, EPA Herbicide Plan and implementation, Implications & benefits of tillage in weed management, Organic weed control options, or weed management's role in sustainable farm management. The essay must contain at least 10 scholarly sources with their correct citations.

**Late work policy:** All assignments (except your final exam) must be submitted on or before December 1 at 11:59 pm for grading consideration.

### Expectations

1. Come to class prepared.
2. Arrive on time to class and stay for the duration of class.
3. Ask for help when you need it!
4. Be kind. Respect others. Engage in civil and relevant discussion.
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! ☺