Course Catalog Description:
This course provides a broad-based overview of soil, plant, and animal science for beginning students of agriculture which encourages them to consider the interconnectivity of these agricultural sub-disciplines. This interconnectivity becomes a foundation to consider and the impact of agricultural systems on humanity and the environment.

Quizzes and Assignments:
There will be at least 8 quizzes/assignments given throughout the semester.

Assignments will be given periodically during lectures. No late assignments will be accepted.

If you are not present when an assignment is distributed, it is YOUR responsibility to check with classmates or the instructor in order to be able to complete the assignment and turn it in on time.

Text: None required

Exams:
The exams will cover material presented in lecture, lab, and any information handed out for assignments. There will be 2 exams. Exams will be given during regularly scheduled class times and may be comprehensive. Questions may consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, true/false, short answer, and essay. If you miss an exam due to an authorized absence, you must contact me ASAP to schedule a time to make up the exam within 1 week of the original date.

Final Exam:
A final exam will be given and will follow the university published final exam schedule.
(http://www.sfasu.edu/registrar/194.asp)

Group Final Presentation:
Because most Americans are not directly linked to agricultural production, there are many misconceptions about topics of agriculture. (Example: Someone states on a Facebook post that they refuse to serve hormones to their children, so they will only purchase organic milk from
grass-fed cows.) You will work with your assigned group to investigate a common misconception in agriculture. You should summarize the issue and find peer-reviewed data to support your statements. You are also encouraged to find examples from producers to explain any processes or issues. Your group must create a written response (minimum of 3 pages) and will also present your information to the class (tentatively scheduled for the week before Thanksgiving). I will provide topics to choose from, and grading rubrics for the written and presentation portions in class.

**Term Paper:**
You must write a 3 to 5 page essay reflecting on a pre-determined agriculture concept discussed in class at some point during the semester. The instructor will assign the topic to each student.

You may write in first person (use “I,””we,””my,””us,” etc.) and citations are optional, but encouraged. Incorporate the following thoughts into your essay:

a. Do you think there is a limit of acceptability when it comes to *(your topic)* as it is applied to food production?
b. Do you think advocacy by farmers and ranchers could alter the acceptability of *(your topic)* applied to food production for the average consumer?
c. How does your personal background influence your choices as a consumer of agricultural products?
d. Has your education in Agricultural Science at SFA thus far changed any of your habits? Do you predict it will? Should it?

**Grading:**
Grades will be determined by the standard University scale and assigned using a percentage of total points. Below is an approximate (some of these may change as we progress through the semester) list of activities that will generate points.

- Assignments/Quizzes: 300 points
- Class attendance: 100 points
- Group Presentation: 200 points
- Term Paper: 100 points
- Final Exam: 100 points
- Total: 800 points

**Attendance:**
Expected and Encouraged. For absences to be considered excused, advanced notice is preferred, documentation upon return to class is required. Only excused absences will be allowed to make up missed work.

**Daily Operations:**
You will need be familiar with and use your SFASU email account in MySFA as well as D2L/Brightspace. If you choose, you can have this email forwarded to an outside email provider.

This course will use the D2L/Brightspace internet learning system a great deal. Many of your assignments will be submitted using D2L. To properly use D2L you will need to submit your assignments using MS Word and rather than other word processing software. Assignments will be made in D2L and some exams may use D2L. Use of D2L will be demonstrated in class.

**Class Rules:**
Following these rules will help maximize the AGRI 1331 experience for you and your classmates:

- Currently, face coverings are required to be worn in the classroom. Face covering requirements and FAQ can be found here: [http://sfasu.edu/fall2020](http://sfasu.edu/fall2020)
- Attend every class.
- If you become ill or are required to quarantine, contact your instructor immediately.
- Read the assigned material and submit all required work on the day it is due. **No late work is accepted.**
- Participate in individual and group activities and discussions.
- Treat everyone in the class with respect and courtesy.
- All students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior and use language appropriate for the classroom learning experience.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away during class time.

**Objectives/Learning Outcomes:**

1. To provide students with necessary information about the agricultural science major.
2. To provide students with information about agricultural production methods.
3. Provide students with hands-on experiences which show them the connectedness of what they learn in lecture or from readings with what happens in the real world.
4. To ask students to think carefully about their own values with respect to land, water, livestock, and people.
5. To introduce students to careers related to agriculture so they may consider their personal interests and reflect on their future in agriculture.
**Program Learner Outcomes:**
1. The student will demonstrate competence of technical and applied subject matter.
2. The student will exhibit problem solving skills based on quantitative and analytical reasoning.
3. The student will demonstrate effective communication skills.
4. The student will exhibit leadership and other interpersonal skills needed for career placement and advancement.

**Student Academic Dishonesty Policy (4.1)**
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. **Definition of Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf)

**Course Grades Policy (5.5)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/5.5_course_grades.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/5.5_course_grades.pdf)

**Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy (6.1)**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)

**Responsible Use of Technology**
It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy 10.4). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct_10.4.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct_10.4.pdf)