SPECIAL PROBLEMS SYLLABUS | AGR 475

CLASS INFORMATION
Classroom: Ag Building Room 110

CONTACT INFORMATION
Jared Barnes, Ph.D.
Office: Agriculture Building Room 107
Email: barnesj@sfasu.edu
Office Phone: 936-468-7850
Office Hours: MW 11:00 am–12:00 pm; TR 10:30–11:30 am; R 3:00–4:00 pm; or by appointment.

I will respond to emails & texts during the workweek (Mon–Fri) within 48 hours. Emails sent to me after 5 pm on Friday, on Saturday, or on Sunday will be answered the following Monday.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
One to six semester hours. Individual study of a selected topic under the direction of a faculty member. Conferences between the student and faculty member are required during the semester.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
After completing this course, you will have a special focus on a topic of your choice.

TEXT AND MATERIALS
No texts are assigned for this course, and I will not test over material from a book.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Students are required to write a research paper, and from that research you will synthesize a project that will benefit the gardens.

EXTRA CREDIT
Attend SFA Gardens Lecture series (held second Thursday night of the month) and write a minimum 250 page word WELL-WRITTEN (typed on computer and printed, mostly free of errors, etc.) reflection addressing 1.) how the lecture related to crop science or horticulture, 2.) what new plants you learned about and what made them interesting to you, and 3.) did you feel the topic was relevant to you as a young horticulturist (be honest!)? Each reflection will gain you 10 points and is due the Monday following the talk.

Occasionally, we have garden volunteer days (approximately 1.5–2 hrs) during the semester for 10 extra credit points. And, I will randomly take attendance at the end of class, and students present will gain a point to their grade at the end of the semester. E.g., be present during 2 roll calls and an 88 becomes a 90. Whoooo!

Grading Scale (rounded to the nearest point)

A = 90–100 | B = 80–89 | C = 70–79 | D = 60–69 | F = 0–59
MY POLICIES

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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

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

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/

***If you plan to take a test with Disability Services, please see me before the exam.***

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

F–1 Visa Holders

There are important federal regulations pertaining to distance education activity for F–1 Visa holders. All students with an F–1 Visa should follow the instructions at the following link to make sure they are in compliance. http://www.oit.sfasu.edu/disted/facsup/f1visa.html

#horticultureisawesome