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Department: Agriculture

Course Description
Students will gain experience finding and reviewing scholarly literature related to their thesis. Students will create a research proposal, conduct research, and write a thesis.

Course Credit Justification: This is a variable credit course. A student may receive 1 to 6 credits of thesis. For each credit hour the student is required to meet with the professor 1 hour about their thesis each week and spend a minimum of two hours per week working on their thesis. For example if the student is earning 3 credits, they will work on their thesis a minimum of 6 hours and meet with their professor a minimum of 3 hours per week.

Program Learning Outcomes: M.S. Agriculture
1. The student will communicate an understanding of scientific discovery and the diffusion of information as it applies to the industry of agriculture.
2. The student will demonstrate competence in the major technical subject matter areas of their graduate program.
3. The student will exhibit problem solving skills based on quantitative and analytical reasoning.
4. The student will demonstrate effective communication skills. Students will demonstrate competence in both written and oral communications.
5. The student will exhibit leadership and other interpersonal skills needed for career placement and advancement.

#1, #2, #3 and #4 are directly addressed in this class

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Students will be able to locate scholarly work related to their thesis topic and provide a review of the literature.
2. Students will create a research proposal.
3. Students will conduct research.
4. Students will write a thesis.
5.

Text and Materials
There is no required text.

Grading Policy
This class is a pass or fail class. If you have fulfilled all required assignments you will pass and if not you will fail.
**Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken each class meeting. 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, including homework assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects. Absences which are considered excused are 1.) Approved University activities (require documentation from sponsor and advanced notice) 2.) Death or major illness of an immediate family member (requires documentation and notice as soon as possible), 3.) Major illness of yourself (require doctors note). If you miss class for any other reason and feel your absence should be excused you must provide me with a typed memo explaining why the absence should be excused and provide appropriate documentation. This memo must be provided within one week of the absence. All other absences are considered unexcused.

**More than two unexcused absences will result in the loss of ten percentage points from your final grade average for each additional absence.** In other words you are allowed two unexcused absences after two absences you will start losing points on your final grade average.

It is important that you arrive to class on time. If you are more than five minutes late you will be considered absent. If you are tardy (within 5 minutes late) three times it will be considered an unexcused absence.

Since this is a class to prepare you to be a teacher, if you are going to be absent you need to provide prior notice by calling or texting your professor.

**Make-Up Assignments:** There will be no make-up assignments for missed tests or assignments unless you notify me before the test and explain why you can’t be there with proper documentation for your absence (teacher note, etc.). If you have an unforeseen circumstance, you must provide documentation that excuses your absence (doctor’s note, death certificate, police report, etc.) In either case the exam must be taken or arrangements made to take the exam no later than 2 days after the initial exam was scheduled. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a 0 (zero) grade for any missed exam. It is your responsibility to make arrangements to take a make-up exams.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

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/academic_integrity.asp

Any act of Academic Dishonesty can result in immediate failure of the course!

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
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.

Students with Disabilities
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/. 