CULTIVATING PLANTS LAB SYLLABUS | HORT 1131 FALL 2023

CLASS INFORMATION
Labroom: Ag Building Room 118
Lab Time: 3:00—4:50 PM Tuesday

CONTACT INFORMATION
Michael Maurer, Ph.D.
• Office: Agriculture Building 119
• Office Phone: 936-468-1729
• Email: USE D2L FOR CONTACT (BEST WAY TO CONTACT ME)
• Office Hours: MW 9:00–9:50 am and TR 8:00-10:00 am or by appointment.

Messages sent to me after 5 pm on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday will be answered the following Monday.

COURSE CONTACT HOURS AND STUDY HOURS
A 3 credit hour face-to-face course in the spring term should approximate 3 hours of classroom time/direct instruction and at least 6 hours of out-of-class work per week.

LAB DESCRIPTION
Basic principles of plant growth as they relate to the production of major horticultural and agronomic crops.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
Program Learning Outcomes:
1. You will demonstrate entry level skills needed for success in horticulture, agronomy and other related fields in the area of a) plant physiology and anatomy, b) practical experience in plant management systems, c) basic knowledge of plant genetics and reproduction, d) identification and knowledge of crops and e) management of soils and soilless media.
2. You will demonstrate quantitative competence related to horticulture and agronomy.
3. You will exhibit problem solving skills based on quantitative and analytical reasoning.
4. You will demonstrate effective communication skills.
5. You will exhibit leadership and other interpersonal skills needed for career placement and advancement.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
After completing this course, you will have further hands on experience to...
1. Cultivate plants in a variety of environments at various scales.
2. Understand the biology and application of crop life cycles
3. Recognize and manipulate the factors that influence plant growth.
4. Distinguish between crops and understand models of classification.
5. Manage the growth and health of the crop.
6. Store and market plants and produce.
7. Appreciate the significance of agriculture and horticulture in life.
GENERAL EDUCATION CORE CURRICULUM

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

By enrolling in HORT 1131 Cultivating Plants you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Empirical and Quantitative Skills requirement.

The chart below indicates: (a) The core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), (b) How the required core objectives will be addressed.

Core Curriculum Objective Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>Fertilizer calculations in Cultivating Plants Lab Practical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TEXT AND MATERIALS

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

The Department of Agriculture faculty have developed a helpful manual to help you be successful in this class and in your career. The manual contains details and formatting for written communication (including expectations for how to create letters, email, memorandum, literature reviews and research reports, tables, and figures for this class), units of measure and dimensional analysis, career development (including information on internships, resume building tips, and a sample resume), and an agriculture glossary. Access it at [https://www.horticultureisawesome.com/s/agprimerdox.docx](https://www.horticultureisawesome.com/s/agprimerdox.docx)

LAB REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laboratory</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Lab Quizzes × 15 pts</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Activities × 15 pts</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Paper Discussion</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Paper Final</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Tray &amp; Journal</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Tray &amp; Journal</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed Germination Lab</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Final</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>600</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• LAB QUIZZES: Quizzes each week will cover content provided from the previous week. **NOTE each quiz has five points about the next lab to encourage students to come prepared for lab.**

• ACTIVITIES: We have activities that are completed and then turned in for a grade.

• PAPER AND PRESENTATION: You will write a paper and give a presentation over one plant in lab. Your participation will be assessed through questions during the presentation, and points are ONLY given if you are present for both presentation sessions. Please see the handout on the plant paper for more details.

• ANNUAL AND VEGETABLE TRAYS AND JOURNALS: Students grow annuals and vegetables in lab, and write reports on their observations. Please see the journal handout for more details.

• SEED GERMINATION LAB: This lab covers the first two weeks of the semester where you germinate seeds and make observations.

• LAB FINAL: The lab final is a final assessment that covers content from the quizzes.

To calculate your final grade for class AND lab, your grades will be lumped together and then divided by the total number of points for both class and lab.

Grading Scale (rounded to the nearest point)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90–100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80–89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70–79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60–69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0–59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES**

**SFA AG DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY POLICY** (referencing university policy, 6.7)

Attendance and punctuality are core skills to have as an engaged student and for a successful career.

Excuses can either be provided as hard copy or electronically. Documentation for excused absences is due within 10 business days of the absence.

For reference, below are examples of excused absences.

• Death of family member
• Hospitalization — admitted into the hospital for health purposes (medical or mental)
• Personal emergency — this can include car accidents or drastic life events, such as a fire
• Administrative and other — this can include jury duty, court subpoena, etc.

If you miss class for any other reason and feel your absence should be excused, you must provide an email explaining why the absence should be excused and provide appropriate documentation. This email must be provided within 10 business days of the absence. All other absences are considered unexcused.

**LAB POLICIES**

**CONTACT YOUR LAB INSTRUCTOR FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR LAB**

Because many labs require set up, we do not have make up labs. If you know you will miss lab, you may come to another lab by communicating with BOTH lab instructors via D2L with an email so that we have a record of the request.
**DUE DATE AND LATE SUBMISSIONS**

- **Electronic assignments** are due **on D2L at 8 AM the day of your lab**.
- **Hard copy assignments** are due **at the time your lab begins**.
- **No assignments are accepted late** unless previous arrangements have been made or it is an excused absence (see above for university activity, family illness/death, or personal illness details).

**LAB WEATHER**

We will have lab **regardless of weather** unless the university enacts its hazardous weather policy. **Make sure you come dressed appropriately and wear close-toed shoes!** We have planted in the rain before!

**LAB ENVIRONMENT**

In order to maintain a positive learning environment in both lecture and laboratory, it is important that you respect your classmates, the instructor, and yourself at all times. As a student, you have the right to an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. You also have the responsibility to ensure that a positive environment is maintained for your peers. Therefore, please refrain from:

- making fun of or insulting another person based on sex, race, orientation, religion, etc.
- cell phones or other electronic devices AND use of headphones are not allowed while lecturing
- tobacco products (which will **NOT** be tolerated in lab since they carry tobacco mosaic virus, a harmful pathogen to plants)
- speaking in a disruptive manner or distractively entering the classroom late
- carrying on extraneous conversations with each other when I am speaking
- distractively putting up materials before lab is officially over
- any other activity that may disrupt the class

If you need to take an emergency call, you may step away.

**Distracting behavior is grounds for dismal from that day's lab. Being disrespectful to ANY of the lab instructors is also grounds for dismissal.**

**CALCULATORS**

We will be doing calculations for this class, and a **calculator is required for lab**. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. Your phone will not be allowed during quizzes for calculations. **Sharing of calculators is also not allowed.**

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Mental Health**

SFASU values students' mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

- **On-campus Resources:**
  - SFASU Counseling Services
  - www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
  - 3rd Floor Rusk Building
  - 936-468-2401

- **SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic**
  - www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
  - Human Services Room 202
  - 936-468-1041

- **Crisis Resources:**
  - Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
  - Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
  - Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
  - 936-468-2401
Academic Integrity (4.1)

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

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)

**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](http://www.oit.sfasu.edu/disted/facsup/f1visa.html)
**TENTATIVE LAB SCHEDULE**

Instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus, and students will be notified of alterations. Due items are bolded and capitalized for each week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAB</th>
<th>WEEK OF</th>
<th>LAB SCHEDULE*</th>
<th>QUIZ</th>
<th>VEGETABLE TRAY*</th>
<th>ANNUAL TRAY*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>28-Aug – 1-Sep</td>
<td>Plant Blindness (online remote lab)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>SOW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seed Germination/The Scientific Method A1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>4-Sep – 8-Sep</td>
<td>Seed Germination/The Scientific Method A2</td>
<td></td>
<td>OBS/DATA/PHOTO</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td>PLANT BLINDNESS POST DUE (ON D2L)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>11-Sep – 15-Sep</td>
<td>Site Assessment / Soil Your Undies</td>
<td>B2/C</td>
<td>OBS/DATA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>18-Sep – 22-Sep</td>
<td>Plant Propagation and Breeding</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>OBS/DATA/PHOTO</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>25-Sep – 29-Sep</td>
<td>Factors of Plant Growth</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>PLANT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>2-Oct – 6-Oct</td>
<td>Plant Anatomy</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>FINAL</td>
<td>OBS/DATA/PHOTO</td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>16-Oct – 20-Oct</td>
<td>Fertilizer Calculations / Plant Presentations</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>JOURNAL DUE (ON D2L)</td>
<td>OBS/DATA/PHOTO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>23-Oct – 27-Oct</td>
<td>Plant Id</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>OBS/DATA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>30-Oct – 3-Nov</td>
<td>Seed Catalog (online remote lab)</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>FINAL</td>
<td>OBS/DATA/PHOTO</td>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>6-Nov – 10-Nov</td>
<td>Business Calculations</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>13-Nov – 17-Nov</td>
<td>Plant Paper Presentations</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>JOURNAL DUE (ON D2L)</td>
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<td>20-Nov – 24-Nov</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING (NO LAB)</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>27-Nov – 1-Dec</td>
<td>Plant Paper Presentations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>4-Dec – 8-Dec</td>
<td>LAB PRACTICAL</td>
<td>—</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* HARD COPY = turn in at the beginning of lab; ON D2L = due at 8 am the day of your lab; OBS = observations; DATA = collect data on the plants; and PHOTO = take photo of the tray