Hi! I’m Dr. Jared, and I’m excited you’re taking Cultivating Plants! Here are a few particulars you should know about the course and classroom environment.

CLASS INFORMATION
Classroom: Liberal Arts North 102
Class Time: Mon & Wed 11:00–11:50 am

CONTACT INFORMATION
Jared Barnes, Ph.D.
• Office: Agriculture Building 107
• Office Phone: 936-468-7850
• Email: barnesj@sfasu.edu (I don’t regularly check D2L email.)
• Office Hours: M 3:00–4:00 pm, T/R 10:30–11:30 am, R 1:00–3:00 pm or by appointment.

I will respond to messages during the workweek (Mon–Fri) within 48 hours. 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.

COURSE 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 be able to...
1. Cultivate plants in a variety of environments at various scales.
2. Understand the biology and application of plant life cycles.
3. Recognize and manipulate the factors that influence plant growth.
4. Distinguish between plant species and understand models of classification.
5. Manage the growth and health of plants.
6. Appreciate the significance of agriculture and horticulture in life.
MY GOALS FOR YOU
1. To see that plants are awesome!!!
2. Have fun!!!
3. To encourage you to be more creative and to heighten your observational skills.
4. To encourage independent thinking
5. To develop lifelong learning and writing skills
6. Build comradery amongst your professional peers.

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 1231 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. This book may be helpful for you as a reference—*Introduction to Horticultural Science*, 2nd Edition by Richard N. Arteca. Learning objectives will be provided to help develop retrieval practice and self-quizzing skills.

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.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>33.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>33.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>33.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>600</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tests will be posted on D2L for students to take during the 11 am–11:50 pm time period. They will consist of 50 randomly selected questions from a pool of over 100 questions.

Additional points (600 pts) are available in the lab section and will be covered in your lab. All points from either class or lab go into a points pool to determine your grade. Thus, if you have 550 points in class and 450 points in lab, your grade will be $1000/1200 = 83.3\%$ or a B for BOTH CLASS AND LAB.

EXTRA CREDIT

- For September, October, and November, watch an at least 50 minute lecture on Garden Masterclass, a free Youtube channel where horticulturists from around the world are interviewed. Then, write a 300 word WELL-WRITTEN (typed on computer, mostly free of errors, etc.) reflection addressing 1.) how the lecture related to cultivating plants, 2.) what new plants or techniques 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 one point on your final grade at the end of the semester for a maximum total of 3 points. Submissions are due by 5:00 PM on the last day of the month and can be completed earlier if you wish. No late submissions will be accepted.

- Occasionally, we have garden volunteer days (approximately 1.5–2 hrs) during the semester for one point on your final grade at the end of the semester.

Grading Scale (rounded to the nearest point)

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= 90–100 \\
B &= 80–89 \\
C &= 70–79 \\
D &= 60–69 \\
F &= 0–59
\end{align*}
\]

MY POLICIES

COMMUNICATION

- I will primarily be using D2L’s News to communicate with you for this class because it syncs with the Pulse app you can download on your phone and allows us to push notifications to the app. There’s also a handy-dandy calendar on the app for helping you track when things are due in class. For more info about the Pulse app, click here. **HOWEVER, I DO NOT REGULARLY CHECK D2L EMAIL.** It is best to use barnesj@sfasu.edu to contact me.

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.

ABSENCES AND MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

- You are responsible for engaging with class and lab material in class, in lab, and on D2L.
- **All special requests about absences must be made via email as a record of the request.** This allows me to reply back with a confirmation of any changes to a test or exam.
- There will be **no make-up** for missed tests unless you notify me explain why you can’t be there and you provide proper documentation for your absence (doctor’s note, etc.). I realize unexpected events occur, and again, proper documentation for your absence (doctor’s note, etc.) is required.
- 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 hour exam. It is your responsibility to make arrangements to take a make-up exam.

ELECTRONICS

In research published in April 2016 ([The Pen Is Mightier than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand over Laptop Note Taking](https://example.com)), researchers found that when students use computers or tablets to take notes in class, they performed less well than their handwriting counterparts. Why? **Because typing forces students to copy verbatim while hand writers are forced to synthesize and process information because they write slower. Thus, hand writers learn BETTER! WOW!** Also, electronics can distract other students. Therefore, computers, tablets, phones, electronic devices, communication through watches, etc. will not be allowed to be used in class. **Students have also shared over the years that cell phones, watching anime, etc. in class is very distracting.**

Of course, it’s difficult to visualize the negative effect that your use of electronics have on others. So, I’m willing to award **5 EXTRA CREDIT POINTS TO THE ENTIRE CLASS** on tests (5 × 3 tests = 15 points!) as long as I don’t see any evidence of cell phones or other electronics while I’m lecturing that I have not approved. Any time that I see evidence of the use of a cell phone or laptop, **THE ENTIRE CLASS** will lose an extra credit point.

- **If you abuse this policy (not caring that you are costing the class points, you will lose all of your extra credit for the semester!)** Evidence of this behavior is you costing the class extra credit at least three times.
- **Some students have special learning needs, and computers and tablets will only be allowed if you send me an email request.**
- **If you are reported abusing your computer privileges, then you will receive a warning and then lose a letter grade for each issue after the warning.**
- The use of artificial intelligence to write papers or answer questions is not permitted for this course. The goal is to teach you how to think instead of allowing a machine to do it for you.
- If you need to take an emergency call, you may step outside.
CLASSROOM 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. Therefore, please refrain from:

- packing up early
- no headphones allowed (see electronics policy above)
- tobacco products (which will **NOT** be tolerated in lab since they carry tobacco mosaic virus, a harmful pathogen to plants)
- harassing other students / speaking in a disruptive manner / distractively entering class late
- carrying on extraneous conversations with each other when I am speaking
- any other activity that may disrupt the class
- **Distracting behavior is grounds for dismal from that day’s class AND/OR lab.**

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.

**Withheld Grades Semester 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)

**Students with Disabilities (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
**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LECTURE SCHEDULE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>28-Aug</strong> CP 0  Intro to Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30-Aug</strong> CP 1  Learning About Plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4-Sep</strong> CP 2  Intro to Horticulture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6-Sep</strong> CP 2  Intro to Horticulture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11-Sep</strong> CP 3  Root, Stem, Leaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13-Sep</strong> CP 4  Flower, Fruit, Seed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18-Sep</strong> CP 5  Plant Diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>20-Sep</strong> CP 5  Plant Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>25-Sep</strong> CP 6  Classification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>27-Sep</strong> — <strong>ONLINE TEST 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2-Oct</strong> CP 7  Water</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4-Oct</strong> CP 7  Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9-Oct</strong> CP 8  Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11-Oct</strong> CP 9  Temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16-Oct</strong> CP 10 Soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18-Oct</strong> CP 10 Soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>23-Oct</strong> CP 11 Plant Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>25-Oct</strong> CP 12 Plant Breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30-Oct</strong> CP 12  Plant Breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1-Nov</strong> — <strong>ONLINE TEST 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6-Nov</strong> CP 13 Plant Propagation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8-Nov</strong> CP 14 Plant Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13-Nov</strong> CP 15 Plant Murder Mystery 1: Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15-Nov</strong> CP 15 Plant Murder Mystery 1: Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20-Nov</strong> — <strong>Thanksgiving (Eating Plants)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>22-Nov</strong> — <strong>Thanksgiving (Eating Plants)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>27-Nov</strong> CP 16 Plant Murder Mystery 2: Weeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>29-Nov</strong> CP 17 Plant Murder Mystery 3: Insects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4-Dec</strong> CP 18 Harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6-Dec</strong> CP 19 Plants in the 21st Century</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note, instructor reserves the right to change the schedule, and students will be notified as needed.*

**The cumulative final will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13 10:30 am — 12:30 pm.**

Finally, there is a two-question quiz on D2L confirming that you have received the syllabus and that you know about the Brightspace Pulse app for how we will communicate to you for the class.