

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences

COURSE SYLLABUS

AGR 570 - Food and Fiber Crops

3 credit hours

Fall 2007 semester

LOCATION: Thomason Room 322, unless otherwise noted

CLASS MEETING TIME: Thursday, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Robert A. Lane
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Office location: Thomason Room 313D

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course includes a study of both traditional plant breeding techniques and an overview of contemporary crop improvement methods. The origin, distribution, adaptation, taxonomic classification physiology and utilization of major crop species commonly used for food and fiber production are covered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
To familiarize students with the production, utilization, breeding, geographic distribution, identification, grading, marketing, and classification of various agronomic crops.

COURSE FORMAT:
This course will meet for approximately three hours per day on Thursdays only (6:00 pm to 9:00 pm).

COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. Introduction
 - A. World Crop Production and Distribution
 - B. Crop Breeding and Improvement

- II. Corn
 - A. Origin and Evolution
 - B. World, U.S., and Texas Production
 - C. Taxonomy
 - D. Morphology and Anatomy
 - E. Hybridization
 - F. Grades and grading
 - G. Specialty corn

- III. Wheat

- A. Evolution and Domestication
 - B. World, U.S., and Texas Production
 - C. Wheat Classification
 - 1. Spring vs. winter
 - 2. Market types
 - 3. Grades and Standards
- IV. Grain Sorghum
- A. Evolution and Domestication
 - B. World, U.S., and Texas Production
 - C. Plant Morphology
 - D. Classification and uses
- V. Rice
- A. Evolution and Domestication
 - B. World, U.S., and Texas Production
 - C. Unique production practices
 - D. Processing and Grading
 - E. Disorders
- VI. Cotton
- A. Origin and Modern Development
 - B. Botanical Classification
 - C. Plant Growth and Development
 - D. Production and Processing
 - E. Fiber Quality and Grading
- VII. Soybean
- A. Origin and Movement to U.S.
 - B. World, U.S., and Texas Production
 - C. Morphology and Anatomy
 - D. Nitrogen Fixation
 - E. Maturity Classes
- VIII. Other Crops (to be covered as time permits)
- A. Barley, rye and oats
 - B. Sugarcane
 - C. Peanut
 - D. Sunflower
 - E. Millet

COURSE EVALUATION:

A total of 3 lecture exams (including the final) approximately two hours in length will be administered and will comprise 80% of the course grade. Each will carry equal weight. Short weekly quizzes will comprise 10% of the grade for the course. Class presentations will make up the remaining 10% of the grade. Grades and announcements will be put on Blackboard.

GRADING PLAN:

Grades will be assigned based on final course averages with the following breakdown:

88-100 = A

74-87 = B

60-73 = C

<60 = F

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Following the Department of Agricultural Sciences Attendance Policy, students will be allowed one unexcused day of absence (3 hours) without penalty. Each **unexcused** absence beyond that will result in a deduction of 4 points from the final average tabulated from assignments and exams.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and outside of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Cheating on any exam will result in a grade of zero for the exam and a grade of F for the course.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling 294-1720.