



Department of Agricultural Sciences

COURSE SYLLABUS
AGR 614.01 – GRADUATE SEMINAR
1 HOUR
Spring, 2008

LOCATION

Room 322, Thomason Building

SCHEDULE

5:00 – 5:50 p.m., Monday

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Dwayne Pavelock
Room 306, Thomason Building
Phone: 294-1186
E-Mail: agr_dxp@shsu.edu
Office Hours: Open Door Policy or By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students a forum for presentation of their graduate project and to provide an opportunity for faculty to present seminars relative to contemporary issues in agriculture. The project is an agreement between student and his/her committee. Course cannot be repeated.

Pre-Requisites: None

Overview: Much information will be disseminated through lecture, but group discussion will be required in addition to related individual activities and presentations that foster a greater understanding of scientific research. The course will require significant outside reading and research-related preparation. Assignments will require written and/or computer composition, oral presentation, and adherence to APA format.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the basic objectives of presenting research;
2. Demonstrate effective research presentation skills;
3. Create a research poster for presentation;
4. Summarize the elements and requirements of a "Call for Papers" and "Call for Posters";
5. Explain the purpose of preparing research abstracts;
6. Prepare a research abstract and evaluation of a published scientific research paper; and
7. Develop an oral research presentation.

TEXTS & RESOURCES

1. Relevant agricultural or agricultural education research journals
2. Web sites of professional academic agricultural organizations

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Classes will begin promptly at the designated time. Each late arrival and/or early departure will affect the student's Attendance, Participation and Professionalism grade. If an emergency or other justifiable reason prevents a student from attending class, the instructor should be notified as soon as possible. However, an absence will still be assessed regardless of the reason.

ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS

Students will be expected to complete the requirements listed below:

1. One (1) research abstract/evaluation;
2. One (1) research poster;
3. One (1) oral research presentation announcement;
4. One (1) oral research presentation;
5. Punctual and regular attendance, involvement in class discussions and activities, and professionalism during class and related activities.

Assignments shall be typed, double-spaced, and follow APA guidelines unless specified otherwise. Assignments are expected to be mechanically correct in spelling, grammar, etc.

GRADING PLAN

The following are the point values of each course requirement:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Maximum Point Value</u>
Research abstract/evaluation	50 points
Research poster	150 points
Oral research presentation announcement	25 points
Oral research presentation	150 points
Attendance, participation and professionalism	25 points

TOTAL	400 points

The following ranges of scores will be used to calculate the final grade:

400 – 368 pts.	=	A	(92% and above)
367 – 328 pts.	=	B	(82% to 91%)
327 – 280 pts.	=	C	(70% to 81%)
Below 280 pts.	=	F	(Below 70%)

Late assignments will be assessed a 20% penalty for each calendar day they are late, regardless of the reason. Assignments are considered late if they are not turned in at the start of class on the due date. Assignments may be submitted early, turned in by a classmate, e-mailed, faxed, or by other arrangements if the instructor is notified prior to the due date. If a student is absent on the day an assignment is done in class, it shall be due at the beginning of the next scheduled class day. **It is the student's responsibility to check with the instructor regarding possible missed assignments.**

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 out 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 which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. **Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins.** Students are prohibited from eating meals in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or other materials not related to the course, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Hats and caps shall not be worn in the classroom. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Assignments are expected to be mechanically correct in spelling, grammar, etc., and such errors will be taken into account in assigning grades. Assignments shall be typed, double-spaced, and follow APA guidelines unless specified otherwise.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If a visitor is not a registered student, it is the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with a disability that 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. A student seeking accommodations should contact the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at the very beginning of the semester.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

An institution of higher education shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who plans to miss a class or required activity to observe a religious holy day should inform the instructor of all such days in writing not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

January 28	Course Introduction and Requirements
February 4	Purposes and Objectives of Scientific and Academic Research
February 11	Comprehending Research Publications Preparing a Research Abstract ✓ <i>ASSIGNMENT: Research Abstract (due February 25)</i>
February 18	Understanding the “Call for Papers” and “Call for Posters”
February 25	Developing Effective Research Posters – The Information
March 3	Developing Effective Research Posters – The Design ✓ <i>ASSIGNMENT: Research Poster (due March 24)</i>
March 10	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>
March 17	Planning and Developing Effective Research Presentations ✓ <i>ASSIGNMENT: Research Seminar Presentation (due April 14)</i>
March 24	<i>Research Poster Presentations</i>
March 31	Designing Effective Research Presentations
April 7	Conducting Effective Research Presentations
April 14	<i>Research Seminar Presentations – 1, 2, 3</i>
April 21	<i>Research Seminar Presentations – 4, 5, 6</i>
April 28	<i>Research Seminar Presentations – 7, 8, 9</i>
May 5	<i>Research Seminar Presentations – 10, 11, 12</i>
May 12	<i>Research Seminar Presentations – 13, 14, 15</i>