

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Course Syllabus

DEPARTMENT: Agricultural and Industrial Sciences

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE: AGR 470, Forage Crops and Pasture Management

CREDIT HOURS: 3 (2-2 Format)

SEMESTER/YEAR: Spring 2008

LOCATION/TIME: THOMASON 217, MW 8:00-8:50, lab Mon 1-3

INSTRUCTOR: Robert A. Lane, Professor
Thomason 313D, phone 294-1225
e-mail: blane@shsu.edu
Office hours: posted on door. E-mail for alternate appointment

TEXT: All PowerPoint presentations used in lecture will be made available through BlackBoard after the lecture has been presented in class. You should take adequate notes in class to supplement these materials. Study questions for each unit will be posted to BlackBoard before the lectures so students can have an idea of the course components deemed most crucial. Readings from various sources will be assigned, both in class and through announcements on BlackBoard. You are expected to keep up with all assignments. You are also expected to use the internet to find additional information related to the subjects being discussed in class. An excellent place to start is <http://www.forages.css.orst.edu/>. If you have trouble finding the information requested, contact me or other students in the class that have been more successful.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to provide a thorough understanding of the major forage crops utilized throughout the U.S. with concentration on methods of economically improving forage quality and quantity and the scientific principles concerned with plant growth and development. An understanding of how natural forces combined with plant genetics and cultural practices used are emphasized. Students are expected to show proficiency in all topics presented on the course outline.

COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. Introduction
 - A. Brief History of Grassland Agriculture
 - B. Comparison of Forage Resources (Range vs. Pasture)

- II. Forage Evaluation and Utilization
 - A. Composition, Fiber Quality and Nutritive Value
 - B. Methods of Evaluation
 - C. Management Practices and Environmental Factors that Affect Quality

- III. Grazing Management Systems and Strategies
 - A. Extensive grazing management systems
 - B. Intensive grazing management systems

- IV. The Forage Grasses and their Management
 - A. Warm Season Perennial Grasses
 - 1. Bermudagrass
 - 2. Bahiagrass
 - 3. Carpetgrass
 - 4. Dallisgrass
 - 5. Johnsongrass
 - B. Warm Season Annual Grasses
 - 1. Corn
 - 2. Sorghum
 - 3. Pearl Millet
 - 4. Crabgrass
 - C. Cool Season Perennial Grasses
 - 1. Tall Fescue
 - 2. Kentucky Bluegrass
 - D. Cool Season Annual Grasses
 - 1. Ryegrass
 - 2. Oat
 - 3. Wheat
 - 4. Rye
 - 5. Triticale

- V. The Forage Legumes and Their Management
 - A. Symbiotic Nitrogen Fixation
 - B. Cool Season Perennial Legumes
 - 1. Alfalfa
 - 2. White clover
 - 3. Red clover
 - C. Cool Season Annual Legumes
 - 1. Crimson clover
 - 2. Berseem clover
 - 3. Ball Clover
 - 4. Arrowleaf clover
 - 5. Subterranean clover
 - 6. Rose clover
 - 7. Yellow and White Sweetclover
 - 8. Medics

D. Warm Season Legumes

1. Kudzu
2. Annual and Perennial Peanut
3. Lespedeza
4. Cowpea
5. Lablab

VI. Forage - Animal disorders

- A. Bloat
- D. Grass Tetany - hypomagnesemia
- E. Milk Fever – hypocalcemia
- F. Prussic Acid Poisoning – hydrocyanic acid toxicity
- G. Fescue Toxicosis
- H. Photosensitivity
- I. Toxic Plants
- J. Sweetclover Bleeding Didease

VII. Forage Preservation

- A. Silage Production
- B. Hay Production and Quality Control

Laboratory Topics

I. Identification of Forage Plants and Weeds

II. Seed Quality and Identification

III. Hay Quality Evaluation and Control

IV. Forage Production Practices

- A. Establishment and Renovation
- B. Weed Control
- C. Fertilization

V. The Botany of Forages

- A. Grass Morphology and Anatomy
- B. Legume Morphology and Anatomy

VI. Legume Inoculation

VII. Forage Harvesting Machinery

COURSE EVALUATION:

This course consists of 2 hours lecture plus 2 hours laboratory per week. Three lecture exams will be given of which one is the final. All will carry equal weight with the lecture average comprising 65% of the course grade. The laboratory portion of the course grade (35%) will be derived from a combination of lab quizzes (15%), the class project (15%) and homework assignments (5%). If desired, students will be apprised of their class standing at any time during the semester.

RECOMMENDED OR REQUIRED READINGS:

Reading assignments covering materials on the internet or copies of reference materials handed out in class will be made regularly. Students are expected to keep up with readings and will be held responsible for them on examinations. Several additional publications and/or supplemental reading materials will be made available to students for purchase from Copy Time for which they are to use as study materials.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

My attendance policy will be in accordance to that established by the university. Attendance will be recorded daily. Please do not make a habit of arriving to class late.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education 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. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” 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.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written

statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the University. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the University policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office