Basic Crop Science  
AGRN 1003/1004  
Rationale

Credit Hours: 04 
Instructor: Dr. David Weaver 
Email: weavedb@auburn.edu 
Telephone: (334) 844-3982 
Address: Dr. David Weaver 
Department of Agronomy and Soils 
249 Funchess Hall 
Auburn University, AL  36849 

Virtual Hours: 1-2 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

Pre-requisites: None

Date Syllabus Prepared: Summer 2008 for Spring 2009

Required Materials:

Course Material: Additional course material will be available on the course Web site in Blackboard.  

Course Overview:

This course is designed to provide students with knowledge about crop plants; those plants that provide our food, fiber, shelter, and fuel. Their historical and botanical origins, growth and development, management, and processing and utilization are discussed in detail. It also deals with the relationships between the environment and crop production.

Course Description:

AGRN 1003-1004 is a 4-credit hour course composed of 19 modules of instruction. These modules will cover the topics listed in the Course Topics Section of this syllabus. This course also consists of a Lab that will ask students to perform various experiments in relation to crop science. In this course the students will learn about crop origins, the history of crop production, how crop plants grow, their morphological and anatomical features, management techniques, and how crops are harvested and utilized. It also deals with relationships between crops and the environment, and how each is affected. Each student will be required to complete a series of assignments, quizzes, three examinations and a final examination.
This course is useful for anyone planning a career in agriculture or environmental science, as well as those interested in the basic science behind crop production and management. Golf course managers, agricultural consultants, landscapers, farmers, agronomists, conservationists, hunting preserve managers and many other professionals involved with agriculture in any way need this course because plants are the major parameter in their daily activities.

Objectives of Course:

- Provide a general understanding of crop plants; their history, development, management, harvest, and utilization; how they interact with the environment.

Students will learn:

- how and why crops grow
- why crops are important
- how crops affect the environment
- how the environment affects crops
- simple agronomic calculations
- the historical and future aspects of crop production

Activities:

The on-campus course and the distance course are for the most part identical in their content, assignments and evaluations. The on-campus students will have face-to-face lectures in a classroom setting while the distance students will watch voice over lectures in PowerPoint format and in videos. Both the on-campus and distance students read lecture notes, have the same text assignments, answer self-quizzes, view videos of laboratory exercises, complete laboratory exercises and reports. Both on-campus and distance students will take 3 timed exams during the semester, and one comprehensive exam at the end of the course. The distance students will take their exams on-line, but the material covered will be identical.

Assignments:

While the on-campus students have hands-on experience of the laboratory sessions, the distance students will have the opportunity to view the laboratory exercises as video sessions. After viewing the laboratory exercises, the students will complete 18 laboratory assignments. Some assignments will require calculations, while others will involve summarizing information presented on video recordings or in the text. Timed exams will cover the material at the end of each of the modules listed in the Course Content section of the off-campus syllabus. A proctored final exam will be administered at the end of the course. The final exam will be comprehensive,
covering all of the course material. Both the distance and on-campus students are given the same amount of time to complete the examinations and evaluated for the same number of points.

Methods students will use to interact with the professor:

The students will watch and listen to recorded lectures by professor and guest lecturers. They will be able to communicate with the instructor and teaching assistant via email and telephone during specified virtual hours that will be communicated to the distance students.

Evaluation:

Assignments and evaluations are similar for both the on-campus and distance education students. Students are expected to read from the text book and the lecture notes made available on the course website in Blackboard each session. They are also expected to complete laboratory assignments and quizzes. Distance education students will be evaluated the same as on-campus students, with the exception of an extra requirement for class participation. Both the distance and on-campus students will have three timed exams, totaling 40% of the grade for the off-campus and 43% of the grade for on-campus students and a final proctored examination worth 13% of the grade for off-campus and 14% for on-campus. The laboratory assignments, class participation, class quizzes, problem sets and discussions will make up the remainder of the grade.

Final Examination:

Both the on-campus and the distance students will take a proctored final exam. This comprehensive exam is designed to give the students an opportunity to review all that they have learned throughout the course. Format of the exam will be multiple choice, designed to test whether the student has learned certain formulas and principles taught in the course.

Examination Process:

After the first session, the distance student must select a proctor to supervise the final examination. Examples of approved proctors are academic administrators in the learner’s locale: school superintendents or principals, academic deans or department heads at colleges, or an independent learning office test supervisor at another college, or an education officer at a military installation. All proposed proctors are verified for appropriateness by Distance Learning and Outreach Technology (DLOT) student services staff at 334-844-3106 or audl@auburn.edu. At the time of the final examination, the proctor and the student fill out the Examination Information Verification form. The proctored final examination is administered via Blackboard to the distance students while the on-campus students take a paper-pencil examination in the classroom.
Materials:

The textbook and reading requirements are the same for both the courses.

Course Description, Objectives, Grading and Syllabus:

See the syllabus and schedule.