



SAFE | Sustainable Agriculture & Food Environment

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Applied Horticultural Science

AGRI 5394

Spring 2018 Syllabus

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Tim Pannkuk

Virtual Office Forum: Available 24/7 for posting/viewing questions

Online Office Hours: MW 9-11 AM, W 2-4 PM; TTh 11 AM – noon

Email for appointments on F or for other times

Email: agr_trp@shsu.edu

Office Telephone: 936-294-3333

Course Description

This course will examine horticultural crop production practices that apply to a wide range of crop species. Sustainable practices, genetically modified organisms, and markets will also be investigated. This course emphasizes knowledge needed for small-scale producers of horticultural crops.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text

- None required

Recommended Texts & Other Readings

- Other resources will be provide in each unit

Course Structure

This course will be delivered entirely online through the course management system Blackboard™. You will use your SHSU account to login to the course from the Blackboard login page (<http://shsu.blackboard.edu>).

In Blackboard, you will access online lessons, course materials, and resources. At designated times throughout the semester, we will participate in a blend of self-paced and group-paced activities using Backboard and additional internet-based technologies.

Technical Requirements

You must have access to a personal computer or a computer in which you have administrative rights so that you may install necessary plugins as the need arises

(Java, Applet, etc.). See the [Technical Requirements](#) website for full recommendations on system and browser requirements.

- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection is desirable)
- Preferred web browser: **Mozilla Firefox** 10.0 or higher
- An active SHSU Student Username and Password
- Webcam and headset (headphone/microphone combo) – Using headphones will eliminate the echoing effect of the microphone during live chat or recording videos.

Technical Assistance

The team at SHSU Online provides technical support for Blackboard through a variety of methods.

Website: [Technical Support](#) <http://online.shsu.edu/campus/support-desk/>

Phone: 936-294-2780 – or – toll free 1-877-759-2232

Email: blackboard@shsu.edu or you can chat with a technician while inside your Blackboard course.

Below are some helpful resources if you wish to explore on your own.

- New students should start with the [Online Student Orientation](#)
<http://distance.shsu.edu/current-students/orientation.html>
- A list of other helpful services can be found on the [Student Resources](#) page
<http://distance.shsu.edu/current-students/resources.html>
- Blackboard Learn™ provides a variety of video tutorials at [Student Videos](#)
https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/Reference/Blackboard_Learn_Videos/Student_Videos

Part 2: Course Objectives

The primary learning objective for this course will consist of examining communication in both oral and written forms. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast various horticultural crop production systems.
- Explore and evaluate new crop varieties, cultivars, and novelty crops.
- Examine the market entry conditions for small-scale producers into food hubs and farmer's markets.
- Create and deliver a lesson on selected new/upcoming horticultural crop.
- Analyze small-scale producer management issues.

In this course, you will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of self-guided reading and research, peer-led discussions, individual and group created projects, and individual quizzes and test.

Part 3: Topic Outline/Schedule

Important Note: Refer to the course calendar for specific meeting dates and times. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding learning module.

Week 01: Introduction

Week 02: Plant anatomy & morphology

Week 03: Farm Production

Week 04: Cover Crops, Residue Management, and Weed Control

Week 05: Irrigation and Water Quality Seasonal High Tunnels, Vertical Farming

Week 06: Sustainable Practices

Week 07: Genetically Modified Organisms

Week 08: Organic Markets and Certification

Week 09: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification & Commodity Storage

Week 10: Market Entry and Selling at Farmer's Markets

Week 11: Seed Banks

Week 12: New and Upcoming Crops

Week 13: New and Upcoming Crops

Week 14: High Tunnels/ Vertical Farming/ Greenhouse Production

Week 15: Finals week

Part 4: Grading Policy

Graded Course Activities

The course will consist of individual work and large group discussions. Individual work will consist of several written assignments and some activities to engage you in curriculum. Large group discussions will be facilitated by peer-led discussion forums. Grades will be determined upon the total of all items outlines below.

Points	Item Description
25	Leading Threaded Discussion during your assigned week
140	Discussion Forums (14 @ 10 points)
10	Bio sketch
40	Written Papers (2 @ 20 points each)
60	Quizzes (3 @ 20 points each)
100	Crop Presentation
100	Final Exam
475	Total Grade

Late Work Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments, quizzes, or other course materials accepted beyond the due date without instructor approval and advanced notification.

Viewing Grades in Blackboard

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the Blackboard Grade Center. Your instructor will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete—typically 7 days following the completion of an activity. Click on the My Grades link in the left navigation pane to view your points.

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance Level
A	90-100%	Excellent Work
B	80-89%	Good Work
C	70-79%	Average Work
F	0-69%	Failing Work

Part 5: Course Policies

Attendance

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University. This course will consist of asynchronous activities. Please make it a habit to visit the course home page periodically throughout the week to check for announcements. Timely entry into online threaded discussions will be expected during the semester.

Participate

Students are expected to participate in all activities as listed on the course calendar, especially online discussion. Online discussion is a vital component to the course and is necessary to meet learning objectives. As such, a portion of the overall course grade will be derived from your engagement in the course discussions.

Build Rapport

You will find that your overall success in distance education courses can come from building a strong rapport with your classmates and instructor. This starts with demonstrating netiquette (online etiquette) by respecting others' opinions, perspectives, and values through all the course communication.

Code of Conduct

As a member of a community dedicated to learning, inquiry, and creation, the students, faculty, and administration of our university live by principles that require all members to be conscientious, respectful, and honest. Students should also understand that honest conduct reaches far beyond just academic honesty.

Completing Assignments

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Blackboard unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested in advanced from the instructor before the due date.

All discussion assignment must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when he/she may need to consider unrolling from a course. Refer to the SHSU Course Schedule for dates and deadlines concerning registration.

Required Policies at SHSU

The following are mandatory policies and procedures practiced by Sam Houston State University, and can be found at <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>.

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.

Accusations of academic dishonesty, proceedings, and subsequent disciplinary actions are addressed in The Texas State University System, Board of Regents policy on [Academic Honesty, Chapter VI, Subsection 5.3, "Academic Honesty"](#) and in the University's [Academic Policy Statement 810213](#).

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 examination, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for the 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 provide 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 shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day. 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. This policy is fully addressed in [Academic Policy Statement 861001](#).

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 [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) office located in the Lee Drain North Annex and can be contacted by phone at 936-294-3412 (Voice), 936-294-3786 (TDD), or via email at disability@shsu.edu. 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. This policy is fully addressed in [Academic Policy Statement 811006](#).

Visitors in the Classroom

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by Dr. Pannkuk. 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 Office.