

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

COURSE INFORMATION:

Course ID: AGRI 6140.01
Course Title: Graduate Seminar
Semester/Year: Spring, 2018
Credit Hours: 1-hour graduate course (CR/NC)
Location: PIRK 340
Time: M 5:00-5:50 pm

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

Instructor: Foy D. Mills, Jr., Ph.D.
Professor and Program Leader- Agribusiness
Strengths: Responsibility * Strategic * Maximizer * Analytical * Relator
Office: PIRK 440H
Office Hours: TR 2:00-5:00 pm or by appointment
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Office Phone: (936) 294-1207

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. Credit: 1.

COURSE COMPETENCIES AND EVALUATION METHODS:

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

- 1) Summarize effective career skills, including résumés or curriculum vitae, interview techniques and search skills.
- 2) Explain the purpose of preparing a research synopsis.
- 3) Describe the basic objectives of presenting research.
- 4) Demonstrate effective research presentation skills.
- 5) Create a research presentation.
- 6) Examine contemporary issues in the agricultural industry.

CLASS FORMAT:

This courses meets one day per week for 50 minutes. Therefore, there will be a certain intensity in each class session. Information will be disseminated through lecture, but with a conversational tone. Class participation/discussion is expected. Individual assignments and presentations are embedded in the course to 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 your disciplinary citation style.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Presence- the fact or condition of being present (www.merriam-webster.com). I make a commitment to you that on M 5:00-5:50 pm this semester, unless I am away on SHSU approved travel, ill or dealing with a family emergency, when I walk into PIRK 340, I will be present in mind, body and spirit out of respect for you. I ask the same of you. As a graduate student, you should understand by this point that returns are generated from investment. I expect us to hold each other accountable out of respect for each other's investment in this class.

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Classes will begin promptly at 5:00 pm. As a seminar class with periodic guest lecturers, attendance is crucial. **Each absence, late arrival and/or early departure will affect the student's Attendance, Participation and Professionalism grade. Three (3) absences will result in the loss of a letter grade. A fourth (4) absence will result in the loss of two letter grades.** 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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

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 to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see [Dean of Students' Office](#).

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 phones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. SHSU University policy can be found at http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/100728.pdf. If I find you using your phone (e.g., texting) during class, I will ask you to take your phone to the faculty desk at the front of the classroom and deposit it there. You may retrieve it as you leave the classroom.

Telephones and text messaging systems (and similar) are prohibited during tests, assignments, etc. and if visible will result in a zero (0) grade for that test, assignment, etc.

The only exception to the telephone expectations noted above is if you are dealing with an urgent situation or a potential emergency. You must notify me of the situation in advance and I must approve the exception. If the exception is granted, please dismiss yourself from the classroom if you need to receive an incoming call or to make a call.

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 the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

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 should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail 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 Services for Students with Disabilities 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 Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day shall be permitted to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor with a written statement describing the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams and/or assignments.

USE OF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS:

To promote a healthy, safe and aesthetically pleasing work, educational and living environment, Sam Houston State University (SHSU) endorses a smoke free and tobacco free environment. The primary purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines prohibiting smoking and the use of all tobacco products. Tobacco products include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco and all other tobacco products. This policy applies to all faculty, staff, and students, employees of contractors and visitors of Sam Houston State University on university premises.

MISCELLANEOUS COURSE POLICIES:

- Deposit assignments to Bb for grading. Assignments are not accepted as email attachments. An assignment may be submitted in hard copy only per my instruction.
- If your work is not available at the beginning of the class period for which it is assigned, it is late and is not accepted. No extra credit assignments are given.
- All work is word-processed in font Times New Roman, font size 12, one inch margins top-bottom-sides, unless it is done in class.

- Use a citation style from your major disciplinary journal. For example, students with an agribusiness emphasis are expected to follow the Chicago Manual of Style, 16th ed. (<http://www.shslibraryguides.org/chicago>) author/date style to cite sources.
- Headgear (e.g., caps, hats, hoods) is to be removed by men and women upon entering class unless it is in observance of your religious faith.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT:

All materials (e.g., handouts, texts, problem sets) used in this course are under copyright and may not be sold, rented or otherwise transferred for any compensation, including taking notes for others or providing to businesses that sell tutoring or other grade-enhancing services without written permission from me or from other copyright owners.

COURSE GRADING AND GRADE:

Credit/No Credit. To receive credit in this course, you must complete all assignments at a minimum level of a “C”. Assignments include:

- CliftonStrengths for Students
- DISC
- MBTI/SII
- Résumé or curriculum vitae
- Job fair participation or interview
- InterviewStream
- Strengths reflection
- Cover letter
- Research paper synopsis
- Speaker reflections
- Research symposium presentation
- Attendance, participation and professionalism

TEXT:

- 1) Relevant agricultural disciplinary research journals
- 2) Web sites of professional academic agricultural organizations.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Date	Class Activity
January 22	Introductions and Course Orientation The Graduate Experience- Committee, Thesis vs. Non-Thesis Options ASSIGNMENT- Personal Assessment Strengths due February 12 DISC due February 12 MBTI/SII due April 2 Bring Preliminary Résumé/Curriculum Vitae (CV) to class January 29
January 29	Development of Career-Seeking Skills – Résumé or CV? ASSIGNMENT- Career-Seeking Résumé/Curriculum Vitae (CV) due February 19 Career Fair Assignment due March 5
February 5	Development of Career-Seeking Skills – Job Search and the Interview ASSIGNMENT- Career-Seeking InterviewStream due February 26
February 12	Scholarly Perspective (Online- No class) ASSIGNMENT- Scholarly Assessment Journal Article Review due February 19
February 19	Strengths
February 26	Strengths
March 5	Strengths ASSIGNMENT- Career-Seeking Cover Letter due March 9
March 12	No Class – Spring Break
March 19	Financial Planning Guest Seminar ASSIGNMENT- Financial Planning Perspective Financial Planning Reflection due March 26
March 26	Agricultural Industry Guest Seminar ASSIGNMENT- Industry Perspective Industry Perspective Reflection due April 2
April 2	Planning and Developing Effective Research Presentations ASSIGNMENT- Presenting Research – Presenting Yourself Research Seminar Presentation due April 9

Date	Class Activity
April 9	Conducting Effective Research Presentations
April 16	<i>Research Symposium A (AGRI 6140 students only)</i>
April 23	<i>Research Symposium B (with AGRI 6350 class)</i>
April 30	<i>Research Symposium C (with AGRI 6350 class)</i>