



Diversified Animal Production

SAFE 5372

Spring 2018 Syllabus

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Marcy Beverly

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

Email: mmbeverly@shsu.edu

Office Telephone: 936-294-1222

Course Description

This course examines various animal production systems in relation to alternative animal agriculture and integrated ranch and farm management strategies.

Various livestock production and management strategies for small landowners and urban food production will be studied. Livestock species and breed choices for sustainable production regimens and organ food systems will be explored.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text

- No required text

Other Recommended Readings

- Supplemental readings will be posted in the weekly course modules.

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 Blackboard and additional internet-based technologies. Activities may consist of chat, blogs, discussion forums, journaling, wikis, and web postings.

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. See the

[Technical Requirements](#) website for recommended system and browser requirements.

- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection is desirable)
- An active SHSU Student Username and Password
- Webcam and headset (headphone/microphone combo) – Using headphones will eliminate the echoing effect of the microphone picking up audio from the computer speakers during live discussions.

Technical Assistance

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

Website: [Technical Support](http://distance.shsu.edu/tech-support) <http://distance.shsu.edu/tech-support>

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)
<http://distance.shsu.edu/current-students/orientation.html>
- A list of other helpful services can be found on the [Student Resources](http://distance.shsu.edu/current-students/resources.html) 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)
https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/Reference/Blackboard_Learn_Videos/Student_Videos

Part 2: Course Objectives

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

1. Define sustainable agriculture and related terminology from multiple perspectives;
2. Define and describe traditional and alternative agricultural enterprises and be able to discuss the differences in production and marketing of products from these enterprises;
3. Critique both the benefits and consequences of different types of food production.
4. Determine the driving factors of sustainable agriculture and;
5. Understand the resource requirements, information needs, marketing decisions, and the risk associated with sustainable agriculture.

Part 3: Topic Outline

Important Note: The academic week for this course follows a Tuesday through Monday outline. Please see Blackboard for a detailed list of curriculum and assignments.

Week 01: Course Introduction and Orientation

Due: Live Session, Blackboard Profile set up, Student Biographies

Week 02: Sustainability Concepts and Urban Animal Production

Due: Writing Assignment

Week 03: Global and Societal Concerns

Due: Discussion Forum, Group Project

Week 04: Alternative and Organic Animal Production

Due: Discussion Forum, Management Plan Section 1 (Draft)

Week 05: Management of Small Acreage of Food Animal Production

Due: Live discussion/Statistics worksheet

Week 06: Small Ruminants and Miniature Livestock Species

Due: Extension publication

Week 07: Free Range Poultry and Egg Production

Due: Extension publication

Week 08: Rabbit Production

Due: Extension publication

Week 09: Spring Break**Week 10: Free Range Pig Production****Due:** Extension publication, Management Plan Section 2 (Draft)**Week 11: Marketing Structures and Strategies****Due:** Writing Assignment**Week 12: Marketing Venues for Alternative Agriculture Food Products****Due:** Market report**Week 13: Governmental Policies and Environmental Issues****Due:** Discussion board on online Forums**Week 14: Management Plan Work****Due:** Group Work**Week 15: Management Plan Presentation****Due:** Group Presentations**Part 4: Grading Policy****Graded Course Activities**

The course will consist individual work and large group discussions. Individual work will consist of several written assignments and some activities to engage you in food awareness in your community. Large group discussions will be facilitated by both discussion forums and live group discussions. Grades will be determined upon the total of all items outlines below.

Points	Item Description
1	Initial Live Session - Introductions
10	Writing Assignments (2 @ 5 pts)
9	Discussion Forum (3 @ 3pts)
32	Extension Publications (4 @ 8pts)
5	Data/Statistics Worksheet
8	Market Report
5	Live Discussion
30	Management Plan (Draft 1 @ 5pts; Draft 2 @ 5pts)
100	Total Grade

Late Work Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments or 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
D	60-69%	Poor Work
F	0-59%	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 both synchronous (scheduled) and asynchronous activities. Synchronous activities are outlined in the course schedule. Please make it a habit to visit the course home page periodically throughout the week to check for announcements. Timely entry into online meeting spaces will be expected during those scheduled times.

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 also be found at <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>.

Academic Dishonesty

The University expects students 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 experience both in and out of the classroom. 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 should register with the [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) office located in the Lee Drain North Annex (telephone 936-294-3412, TDD 936-294-3786, and 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 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: [Academic Policy Statement 811006](#), (<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>)