**Applied Field Crop Production**

AGR 4214c

Agronomy Department

University of Florida

Spring 2016

Instructor: Greg MacDonald

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Class Schedule: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - Period 3 (9:35-10:25)

Location: Agronomy Teaching Farm – Building

Course Website: None – course material will be provided in class and via email

Course Description: This ***3 credit*** course will provide students with a better appreciation of and competencies needed for a fundamental understanding of production cropping systems. Students will gain basic knowledge of the major food crops (biology, production, utilization), and the climatic zones where differing cropping systems are utilized. This course will have a combination of lecture and hands-on labs/field demonstrations afforded by the teaching farm location. Topics covered will include: tillage systems and equipment, rotations, fertility management, irrigation management, crop growth and development, pest management, abiotic stresses, yield potential, genetics and biotech, crop planting through maturity and decision making/economics.

Course Objective: The objective of this course is to provide students with a foundational understanding of large scale crop production and the major crops grown for food, fiber and fuel.

Office Hours: By appointment – send email or see me after class to schedule a time.

Class Attendance: Attendance is not mandatory for all lectures but students must be present for discussions of papers, presentations and guest lecturers as a portion of your grade will be based on participation.

Textbooks: No textbook required but students will be provided with assigned readings from various sources including websites, journal articles, and extension publications.

Assessments and Grading: In class exams (3 @ 25% each); cropping systems profile (15%); class participation (10%). Exam dates are indicated in the Course Topical Outline section of this syllabus. Exam questions will come from in class readings, lecture notes, and discussions.

Course Grading Scale: For University of Florida grading policy see:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

The following grading scale will be used in this class.

A=100-90% B+=89.9-87%

B=86.9-80% C+=79.9-77 %

C=76.9-70% D+=69.9-67%

D=66.9-60% E<60%

Electronic Device policy: The use by students of cellular telephones, messaging devices and other

electronic devices during lecture and labs is prohibited. In class, students are required to put phones and messaging on silent mode and turn off other devices. All electronic devices must be stowed in a backpack or equivalent during class.

University of Florida Student Honor Code (Rule 6C1-4.017): When you enroll at the University of

Florida you pledge to hold yourself and your peers to the standards of high honor required by the student honor code. You are expected to uphold your pledge to honesty and integrity in class. Academic

misconduct in any form will not be tolerated. University of Florida procedures will be followed to

discipline offenders. There will be no warnings and sanctions will occur on the first offense.

Visit: http://regulations.ufl.edu/chapter4/4017.pdf to read the Student Honor Code, learn about conduct that constitutes academic dishonesty, and sanctions. As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement:

*“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I*

*agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the university.”*

University of Florida Software Use Policy: All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required

and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources: Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their

general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The Counseling &

Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students.

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or

academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/

Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library

Training Programs, Community Provider Database

Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/

Students with Disabilities Act:

The Dean of Students Office coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This

includes the registration of disabilities, academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services, and mediating faulty-student disability related issues. Dean of Students Office, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-7066, [www.dso.ufl.edu](http://www.dso.ufl.edu).

**General Outline and Class Schedule for**

**Applied Crop Production**

**Lecture Topic Date(s)\*\***

Introductions, overview of syllabus,

fill out information cards January 6

Defining crops, history of agriculture January 8

Overview of crop production in Florida, U.S. and Global January 11

Review of plant growth, structure, development, etc. January 13, 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – no classes January 18

Soils 101 and Fertility Management January 20, 22

Tillage and Implements January 25, 27

***Exam 1 January 29***

The processes of crop growth from seed to seed February 1, 3

All things water – drought, flooding and irrigation February 5

*Instructor out of town – no class February 8, 10*

All things water, continued February 12

*Instructor out of town – no class February 15*

Abiotic stresses February 17

Pests, pest management, resistance February 19, 22

Biotechnology and crop production – pros and cons February 24

***Exam 2 February 26***

*Spring Break - no class February 29 – March 4*

Crops – Cereals/Small Grains March 7, 9

Crops - Soybean March 11

Crops – Corn, Sorghum, Millets, etc. March 14, 16

Crops – Rice March 18

Crops – Peanuts and other legumes March 21, 23

Crops – Cotton March 25, 28

Crops – Forages March 30

Crops – Sugar April 1

Crops – Potatoes April 4

Crops – Sunflowers, Flax, Sesame April 6

Crops – Miscellaneous April 8

Crops – Biofuels April 11

Field Day Presentations April 13, 15, 18?

Exam 3 April 20

*\*\* there will be 3-4 days (class periods) where we will be out in the field planting and observing our*

*crops, so this will alter the schedule slightly*