**Instructor:** Dr. Jose Lopez  
Office: Agricultural Science Building, Room 143  
Phone: (903) 886-5623  
Email: Jose.Lopez@tamuc.edu

**Class Time:** N/A

**Credit Hours:** 3 or 6 hours

**Sections:** Sec. 009 (3 hours) or Sec. 010 (6 hours)

**Office Hours:** For immediate consultation I will be available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. or by appointment. You are also welcome to stop by my office at any other time. If I am unable to meet with you at that time we will schedule an appointment.

**Prerequisites:** AG 532 and the students must be enrolled in the Master of Science in Agricultural Sciences Option I (Thesis Option).

**General Expectations For Students Enrolled in AG518:**

1. Students will work on their research project under the supervision of the instructor. Dr. Jose Lopez must be your graduate faculty advisor if you want to take this course under his supervision.

2. Students will meet with the instructor for 3 or 6 hours each week to discuss specific weekly assignments and guidelines. The instructor may also ask the students to help in other projects within the Department and College mission.

3. If a student makes satisfactory progress on his/her research during the semester enrolled but has scheduled the thesis defense for a later semester, a grade of “I” is usually assigned at the end of the semester.

4. If a student satisfactory defends his/her thesis and the student’s graduate committee approves the thesis and performance on the oral exam during the semester enrolled, a grade of “S” is usually assigned at the end of the semester.

**General Objective:** The general objective of AG518 is that students make satisfactory progress in his/her Master’s Thesis.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

If the student is taking his/her first 3 hours of Master’s Thesis, the student will make progress on his/her research by working during the semester and submitting to the instructor by the deadline below acceptable drafts of (A) Chapter I: Introduction, and (B) Chapter II: Literature Review. Refer to the Graduate Studies and Research web page for the most current version of the Thesis Guide.  
(http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/graduateschool/graduateForms.aspx)

If the student is taking 6 hours or his/her second 3 hours of Master’s Thesis, the student will make progress on his/her research by working during the semester and submitting to the instructor by the deadline below acceptable drafts of (A) and (B) above as well as acceptable preliminary or final drafts of one or all of the following chapters/sections: (C) Conceptual Framework, Research Methods, and Procedures; (D) Results and Discussion; (E) Conclusion and Implications.
**Grade Determination:**
The following grade determination applies only to students who are taking his/her first 3 hours of Master’s Thesis.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Fr., Sep. 7(^{th}), 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Mon., Oct. 1(^{st}), 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Mon., Oct. 29(^{th}), 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Mon., Nov. 5(^{th}), 2012</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Mon., Dec. 3(^{rd}), 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Fr., Dec. 7(^{th}), 2012</td>
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The student is responsible for scheduling appointments with the instructor and understanding the instructor’s expectation for the assignments above. The assignments will be graded based on the quality of the content and the timely submission of the assignment to the instructor. Late submissions will result in a grade of zero and will not be tolerated.

*Note:* You may find a relevant Master’s Thesis on your topic of interest from the following websites.

- **Texas A&M University Library**
  [http://repository.tamu.edu/search](http://repository.tamu.edu/search)

- **Texas Tech University Library**

- **University of Florida Library**
  [http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/etd.html](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/etd.html)

- **Virginia Tech University Library**
**Grading Scale:**

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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<tr>
<td>“S”</td>
<td>The student completed all the assignments satisfactorily during the term enrolled obtaining a score of 70% or higher, defended his/her Thesis, and the student’s graduate committee approved his/her thesis and performance on the oral exam during the semester.</td>
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<tr>
<td>“I”</td>
<td>The student completed all the assignments satisfactorily during the term enrolled obtaining a score of 70% or higher, but has scheduled the thesis defense for a later term.</td>
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<tr>
<td>“U”</td>
<td>The student did not complete all the assignments satisfactorily obtaining an score below 70% during the term enrolled.</td>
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**Important Dates:**

- **August 27th, Monday**: First class day.
- **September 12th, Wednesday**: Last day to drop a class with refund, if remaining enrolled.
- **November 1st, Thursday**: Last day to drop while still enrolled.
- **December 7th, Friday**: Last class day.
- **December 17th, Monday**: Students’ grades available via MyLeo.