PLS 320 Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2015

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Optional: Soil Fertility and Fertilizers: An Introduction to Nutrient Management. 7th ed. Havlin, Tisdale, Nelson, and Beaton

Course Description:

An introduction to the principles of soil fertility, plant nutrition, and fertilizers.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Introduce students to the basic concepts of soil fertility.
2. Develop the students’ understanding and comprehension of nutrient cycles
3. Develop the students’ appreciation for the complexity and importance of plant/soil/nutrient interactions
4. Develop students understanding fertilizers in cropping systems.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Exams: Three 100 point exams, one 200 point final exam
Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, & 4
Assessment: Vocabulary, Multiple Choice, True/False, and Short Answer Exam
Presentation: Group Presentation, Individual Presentations
Student Learning Outcomes: 2 & 4
Assessment: Graded according to the presentation rubric
Project: Group Project
Student Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, & 4
Assessment: Graded according to the presentation rubric

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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A 90% or greater =
B 80 to 89.99% =
C 70 to 79.99% =
D 60 to 69.99% =
F < 60% =

There will be no extra credit work available.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

To be successful in the course, you will be provided access to university computers and facilities. The following items are available on university computers for your use.

1. Access to T: drive
2. MS Word
3. MS PowerPoint
These items will be helpful for you, should you need to work at home.

1. Flash drive
2. MS Office or compatible software
3. High-speed internet for access to Web Soil Survey at home.

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### COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

**Course Specific Procedures:**

You may bring drinks to class. Please finish any meals before class begins. The use of tobacco products during class time is strictly prohibited.

Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Copying of others’ work, use of disallowed material on exams, plagiarism in assignments or cheating in any other form as defined by the instructor will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Multiple infractions will result in a grade of ‘F’ for the course and possible expulsion.

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**University Specific Procedures:**

**ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

**Student Conduct**

Students are expected to respect the rights of others in the class. Cell phones and other electronic equipment should be turned off prior to the beginning of class. Use of these items during class time, or any other unwarranted classroom disruption, will result in your immediate excusal from class for the remainder of the period.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).
For Graduate Credit

Students enrolled in the class for graduate credit have the following extra requirements.

1. The student will review of three additional (above and beyond undergraduate assignment) journal articles related to soil fertility and plant nutrition and provide a two-page summary.

2. The student will conduct a greenhouse study involving a crop/plant and varying nutritional treatments.

3. The student will present an oral presentation of the greenhouse study that includes results and statistical analysis of the findings.