

# Agronomy 105 Crop Production Spring 2009 Syllabus

**Instructor:****Dr. Lori Unruh Snyder****Office:** Lilly 2-414E**E-mail:** [lusnyder@purdue.edu](mailto:lusnyder@purdue.edu)**Office Hours:** Thursday, 9:30-10:30 am**Teaching Assistants:****Lab 1: Dr. Lori Unruh Snyder** 9:30 to 11:20 Tuesday [lusnyder@purdue.edu](mailto:lusnyder@purdue.edu)**Lab 2: Ms. Trulie Thorley** 11:30 to 1:20 Tuesday [thorley@purdue.edu](mailto:thorley@purdue.edu)**Lab 3: Mr. Matt Stine** 1:30 to 3:20 Tuesday [mestine@purdue.edu](mailto:mestine@purdue.edu)**Lab Room:** Lilly 2-407**Lecture Room:** Lilly 3-418

8:30 to 9:20 AM Tuesday and Thursday

**Recitation Room:** Lilly 2-417. Crops Resource Center. Hours arrange.

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*“The small landholders are the most precious part of a state. Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country, and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bonds.”*

--Thomas Jefferson

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**Office Hours:**

Office hours are currently on Thursday immediately following class until 10:30 am. The best way to reach me is via e-mail. However, there may be times when your instructor can not comply with the hours posted. It is best that you schedule an appointment ahead of time to ensure that I will be available to help you. If you are unable to meet with me during my office hours, it is required that you make an appointment to meet with me.

**Class Website:** <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/courses/agry105/>

From the class website, you can access blackboard, a copy of the syllabus, find the instructor's and TA's contact information, study information for crop/weed ID quizzes, and the lab schedule.

**Text for Class and Lab:** We will provide copies of your course readings and homework throughout the course of the semester. Required Purchase: **3 ring binder that is at least 2 ½ inch.**

Do not purchase anything less or you will need to purchase a second one to fit all text. We will also supply each student with a free copy of the 2009 Corn and Soybean Guide. If you lose your free copy, you will be required to purchase a second copy. Copies are limited so don't lose it.

**Crops Resource Center:** Lilly 2-417

The CRC is a great study tool for all students taking this class. Graduate TAs and undergraduate teaching assistants who will be available Monday-Thursday from 8am-5pm; \*Wed. 4:30pm and on Friday from 8am-2:30 pm. The undergraduate TAs will be there to help you and to answer any questions you might have about course materials, assignments, labs, etc. Not only that, but there are magazines with current agriculture topics (good for finding a news article), models and diagrams of plants, computers with internet access, posters with information about each week's lab, study materials for crop/weed ID quizzes, and much, much, more.

**Blackboard**

Blackboard will be used for posting information related to class and lab on the internet. Not only that, but grades will be updated periodically through blackboard, most likely by Friday by 5:00 PM. Blackboard can be found at: <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/ilt/blackboard/>

**Class Grades:**

Grades in this class are administered on a point-based scale. Once the course is over, each student's points will be tabulated (both class and lab points) and the total points received will be used to determine the student's final grade.

Student's can earn points in the following categories:

**Lecture Class Participation:**

For practical purposes, attendance is required, especially on quiz days (which are announced at least one week in advance) and those days when there is an in-class assignment due (while some in-class assignments are announced in advance, others are not). There will be several in-class assignments administered. Sometimes, I will give a short questionnaire about "What in this lecture/chapter was not clear?" or we will have movies and questions to ask while watching the in class movie. Make-ups for in-class assignments will only be administered if the student can provide a valid excuse (i.e. doctor's note).

In addition, we will have two group debates in class and you will be assigned both group and individual work. The dates haven't been set (one be at the beginning of the semester and one at the end of the semester) yet but will be announced at least one month in advance to prepare for the debates. These debates will be based on current topics in the Agronomic Field. Individual assignments will be given to insure all group members do their share in the efforts to prepare.

**Homework:**

Periodically, students will be assigned homework that is related to topics being discussed in class. Each homework assignment will have a specific due date. All assignments are due on their exact date, and there will be no exceptions to this rule; assignments can always be turned in early. Grades will be posted each Friday to blackboard and all homework should be turned in to ensure grading time to ensure posting time. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

**Quizzes:**

There will be three announced quizzes worth 30 points each. Quizzes will cover material from lectures and class assignments. In addition we will have 3 extra credit quizzes focused on 2009 corn and soybean guide (total of 29 points). I will announce the pages covered for the bonus quizzes. There will be no make-up quizzes offered unless you have a university official note.

**Class Exam:**

The class exam will be comprehensive and cover material that has been presented over the entire semester. In preparation for the class exam, students are encouraged to look over quizzes, class assignments, and powerpoints from lecture. Students should also be able to explain the concepts of each quiz and assignment question. At least 20% or more of the questions on each exam will be identical or very similar to the subject matter on past quizzes and class assignments. Question formats on each exam will include: true/false, multiple choice, short answer, fill-in-the blank, and matching.

**Recitation Hours:****Crop and Weed Identification:**

There are two crop and weed identification quizzes for this class. The student must schedule to study for and take both of these quizzes outside of class time. A chart stating what plants will be on each quiz is located in the Crops Resource Center. There will also be ID pre-quizzes that count towards extra credit towards your grade and you must do the pre-quiz before you take the actual quiz.

Student's must sign up and schedule a time to take each quiz. **A grade of "Incomplete" will be given if either of the quizzes is not taken; given you are passing in all other aspects of class.**

However, if the student is sick or is unable to show up (i.e. death in the family) on their scheduled day, as long as there is sufficient documentation (i.e. doctor's note) the student will be able to make up their quiz.

**iFARM Activities:**

iFARM will take place during the course of the semester as a tool to help retain information learned in both class and lab. You will have a pretest, worksheet and a post test to complete for each iFARM assignment. You can use the computers within the CRC room or any computer where you have access to blackboard.

**Plant of the week extra credit and Pre-quiz bonus for Crop and Weed ID**

Not only can you earn extra credit from quizzes, but you can earn extra credit by identifying the plant of the week (which is located in the CRC). Each week, a new plant will be placed in the CRC for identification. In order to receive full credit, students must fill out and turn in a questionnaire about each plant. Also, there are new pre-quiz bonus points for crop and weed ID.

**Lab Grade:****Lab Activities:**

Students are required to participate in all labs. Some labs will feature a movie, group games, or material reviews. During each of these activities, students will be required to participate in and fill-out and turn in any paper work/assignments associated with those activities. There are several in lab assignments distributed throughout the semester which are due by the end of lab or the next following lab.

**Quizzes and Lab Participation**

There will be about 5 lab quizzes this semester. The labs will be cumulative and cover 2 or more labs. They will benefit you for the lab final exam. They will be similar in style.

**Exam:**

There will be a cumulative lab final at the end of the semester worth 100 points. The lab final consists of a written portion, worth 30 points, and a station section, worth 70 points. The written portion will have questions consisting of, but not limited to: multiple choice, short answer, math problems, and matching. For the station section, different diagrams, models, pictures, tools, and various other things will be set up around the room and the student must go from one station to the next and answer each question.

At any time during lab, if you feel that you do not understand a concept or a procedure, please see one of the lab instructors so that we can clear things up for you. It is important that you do this because homework assignments and lab quizzes will be based off of lab concepts.

**Planning to Miss Class?**

A letter memo in advance from the faculty member in charge of a field trip or other activity is usually adequate for an excused absence. In the event that an unforeseen event occurs (i.e. illness), a written excuse (i.e. doctor's note) should be presented to the instructor upon your return to ensure that you have the opportunity to make up missed work. ALWAYS, the student is responsible for getting lecture notes from a classmate or picking up any class handouts from the box in the CRC. If you do not know a friendly classmate, make friends with one that you can count upon to provide you with needed/missed information. Please remember, that if you don't let the instructor or one of the TAs know what is going on with you, we cannot help you.

**Course Policy on Academic Dishonesty**

University Policy States: " The commitment of the acts of cheating, lying, stealing and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of ghost-written papers, the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism and coping during examination) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest (University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972)."

Academic dishonesty in this course will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty will consist of the following actions:

1. Obtaining or using work other than your own on tests and quizzes.
2. Unauthorized use of study aids, answer or crib sheets.
3. Soliciting or providing answers on tests or quizzes.

Students who violate the above policy can expect disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may consist of receiving a zero on the assignment, failing the course, being reported to the Dean of Students, or other action as deemed appropriate by the course instructor.

**Grading Procedure:****LECTURE****LECTURE PARTICIPATION**

1	<b>In class participation activities</b>	<b>50</b>
2	<b>Two Debates</b>	
	Selection of Articles and Write Up for Debates	<b>25</b>
	Class Debate Participation	<b>6</b>
3	<b>Lecture Homework</b>	<b>35</b>
4	<b>Lecture Quizzes (3 @ 30pts each)</b>	<b>90</b>
5	<b>Class Exam</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b><u>Lecture Total:</u></b>	<b><u>306</u></b>

<b>RECITATION</b>	<b>Crop and Weed ID Quizzes (2 @ 35pts each)</b>	<b>70</b>
	<b>IFARM Activities on Blackboard</b>	<b>120</b>
	<b><u>Recitation Total:</u></b>	<b><u>190</u></b>

<b>LAB</b>	<b>Lab Participation Points/Activities</b>	<b>84</b>
	<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>70</b>
	<b>Laboratory Final</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b><u>Lab Total:</u></b>	<b><u>254</u></b>

	<b><i>GRAND TOTAL (CLASS AND LAB)</i></b>	<b><i>750</i></b>
<b>EXTRA CREDIT</b>	<b>2009 Field Guide Quizzes</b>	<b>29</b>
	<b>Plant of the Week (14 @ 1pt each)--in CRC room</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>Pre-quiz for Crop and Weed ID in CRC room</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b><u>Extra Credit Total:</u></b>	<b><u>50</u></b>

***POTENTIAL with Extra Credit Total:*** **800** \*\*\*\*\*

**Evaluation & Grading:**

The following scale will be used to determine the final letter grade:

**750-675 = A** (90-100%)

**674-600 = B** (80-89%)

**599-524 = C** (70-79%)

**523-449 = D** (60-69%)

**448-000 = F** (Below 60%)