

SOCR 100

GENERAL CROPS (Lecture + Lab)

Fall 2013

3 lectures and 1 lab per week

When: Lectures Mon, Wed and Fri, 8:00 AM to 8:50 AM

Where: (Wagar 232)

Instructor: Dr. Arathi Seshadri

Office: C138 Pl. Sci

Office hours: Mon and Wed: 1 PM – 2 PM or by appointment

Email: Ram CT e-mail

Tel: (970) 491 6804

Course Objectives:

To examine the basic concepts of agriculture and crop plants

To familiarize the student with basic crop production practices and discuss the principle factors affecting crop growth and development

To acquaint the student with the developmental morphology and identification characteristics of crop plants

To assist in developing the oral and written communication skills, and the integrative thinking process

Course Organization:

General Crops is a 4 credit-hour course consisting of 3 lectures and 1 two-hour laboratory period per week.

Text book: Principles of Field Crop Production by Martin, Waldren & Stamp 2006 (Optional).

Labs: Laboratory manual of Crop Science (2nd Ed.) by Waldren and Ehler (**Required**)

Class lectures: Topics to be covered in the lecture each day will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to attend classes and labs regularly and take notes during lecture to supplement topics posted on Blackboard. Exam and quiz questions will cover material discussed during classes. If you miss lectures and labs on a regular basis, it is your responsibility to fill in the details.

Course ethics: University policies on academic integrity and classroom behavior described in General Catalog for 2013-2014 will be enforced. The students are expected to follow honor code of CSU for every exam/quiz/labs: *“On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have not received or given any unauthorized assistance in this exam/quiz/lab.”* The course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog (Section 1.6; Page 7-8) and the Student Conduct Code. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Penalties include failure in the class and referral to the University’s Director of Judicial Affairs (Section 1.6; Page 9-12).

Course Evaluation:

Class performance will be evaluated by **exams, online quizzes, lab points and a presentation.** See Course Grading below for details. The grade for the course will be out of 400 points. I am happy to discuss exam questions with you at any time. However, scores cannot be changed **7 days after** scores are released on Blackboard.

Exams – Short answer questions, Fill in blanks, Match responses *etc.* for a total of 100 points per exam

Online Quizzes – Each quiz will have 10 questions for a total of 20 points per quiz. Online Quiz will be released on Monday and is due BY 11:59 PM on Friday of the same week.

Labs – A short quiz during the lab or a lab report for a total of 10 points per lab

Presentation – 10 minutes per student (8 + 2 min for discussion) for a total of 10 points per presentation.

Choose topic by due date (2 points) + Depth and relevance of information presented as judged by the instructor and TA (4 points) + Quality of presentation *e.g.* typos and visual appeal of presentation *etc.* (2 points) + On time presentation with time for questions (2 points). **Presentations that exceed the stipulated time will entail losing points @ 2 points/2 minutes.**

Exam dates:

Exam 1 – Wednesday, Sep 25 – In class

Exam 2 – Wednesday, Oct 23 – In class

Exam 3 – Wednesday, Nov 20 – In class

Missing exams/labs: Students can miss one exam, one online quiz and two labs without any penalty. Missing an exam, quiz or lab = “0” for that exam, quiz or lab, which will also be the respective dropped score (Check Course Grading for details). The intention of dropping the lowest score is to allow for any emergencies due to travel, illness, injury, family needs *etc.*, that may interfere with a scheduled exam, quiz or lab. Feel free to talk to me if you need further explanation about this.

In large classes with tight class schedules, such as SOCR 100, there will be NO make-up exams, quizzes or labs. University sanctioned activities require a letter of sanction.

Course Grading:

Student grades will be based on points accumulated from the following:

2 Lecture examinations (Out of 3; drop 1 score)	200
5 Online quizzes (Out of 6; drop 1 score)	100
1 Class presentation	10
9 Laboratory points (Out of 11; drop 2 score)	90
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Course Total	400 points

Grading Scale: 90-100% = A, 80-89.9 % = B, 70-79.9 % = C, 60-69.9 % = D, < 59.9% = F

No curving or individual extra credits.

Tentative Lecture Schedule – the order and topics may be changed during the semester

Week	Topic
Aug 26 - 30	Introduction to Course, Art and Science of Crop Production
Sep 4 – 6	Crop plants and their environment
Sep 9 – 13	Botany of Crop plants (Quiz 1 due Sep 13)
Sep 16 – 20	Crop Improvement
Sep 25	Test 1
Sep 30, Oct 2 – 4	Tillage (Quiz 2 due Oct 4)
Oct 7 – 11	Fertilizer, Cropping practices
Oct 14 – 18	Seeds and Seeding (Quiz 3 due Oct 18)
Oct 23	Test 2
Oct 28 – 30, Nov 1	Harvest of field crops (Quiz 4 due Nov 1)
Nov 4 – 8	Handling and marketing
Nov 11 – 15	Pastureland, rangeland (Quiz 5 due Nov 15)
Nov 20	Test 3
Nov 25 – Nov 29	Fall Recess
Dec 2 – Dec 6	Oil seed crops
Dec 9 – 13	International Agriculture (Quiz 6 due Dec 13)
Dec 17	Final Exam: 4:10-6:10 pm – Details TBD

Tentative Lab Schedule – the order and topics may be changed during the semester

Week of	Topic
Aug 26	No Labs
Sep 2	Introduction to labs Seeds and germination
Sep 9	Characteristics of Monocots and Dicots
Sep 16	Flowers and fruits
Sep 23	Field visit – TBD
Sep 30	Plant Nutrition (Presentation topics due for 2 points)
Oct 7	Crop breeding and selection
Oct 14	Field visit TBD
Oct 21	Crops and weeds
Oct 28	Student Presentations – 7 students
Nov 4	Student Presentations – 7 students
Nov 11	Student Presentations – 7 students
Nov 18	Field visit TBD
Nov 25 – Nov 29	Fall Recess
Dec 2	Field visit TBD
Dec 9	Lab Finals TBD