

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**ANSC 4317  
SENIOR CAPSTONE  
Spring 2021**

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**Instructors:** Dr. Wakefield 108 RAS  
Office: (432) 837-8210  
dbw19dp@sulross.edu  
**Office hours:** TBA

**Class Meetings:** TTR 11:00 – 12:15 p.m. **Room:** 135  
**Lab Meetings:** Zoom (when instructed)

**Course Description:** Senior Capstone in Agriculture is offered as a Capstone Course to provide all agriculture majors with a critical analysis and assessment of agriculture in the U.S. Emphasis will be on professional development needed to begin a career in agriculture, career opportunities in world and national agriculture, summary information about agriculture disciplines in the department, and student assessment through oral and written preparations.

During the course, students will *present technical information* and *prepare written reports* on approved topics in the following areas: agribusiness operations; agricultural systems; animal science; general agriculture; general agriculture with teacher certification; horticulture business, and pre-veterinary science.

The overall objective of this course is to develop awareness and knowledge of professional development needed for agriculture career jobs and to assess learning in major areas of study in order for students to reach the highest point of achievement ("capstone") in degree programs.

**Course Objective:** Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

1. Be better prepared to enter a professional career in agriculture;
2. Have a greater appreciation for other areas of agriculture outside their major;
3. Have greater understanding of their major area of study in agriculture;
4. Demonstrate and discuss professional development in agriculture;
5. Describe and differentiate agriculture career areas and opportunities;
6. Conduct a self-assessment of their professional career preparation.

**Required  
Reference Texts  
/ Materials:**

**Anderson, L.E. & Bolt, S.B. (2016). Professionalism: Skills for workplace success. (4th ed.) Pearson Education. ISBN 13 (978-0-32-195944-7)**

- Classroom Handouts and Online Readings
  - **Blackboard** Course Communication
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**Attendance:**

Class participants are considered mature adults who are beginning their agriculture career. It is imperative that we start being responsible and prompt in what we do. Class participants will be held responsible for all work covered in the course. Attendance is mandatory at each class session. Students should call or make arrangements with the instructor PRIOR to missing a class. In the case of an emergency, the students should contact the instructor as soon as possible. Treat the course like a JOB. Only university excused absences will be accepted. Attendance will be taken at every class meeting and participation will be part of the final grade in the course. Unapproved and excessive absences will result in a **5 pt deduction** from your final grade for each instance. Private conversations during lecture or presentations are disrespectful and unnecessary. Students that fail to demonstrate respect for others in the classroom by conducting private conversations will have points deducted from their final accumulated points. **CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS.**

**Writing Intensive Course (WI)**

The course is designated as Writing Intensive. In order to meet these requirements, a minimum of 65% of the student's grade must be based on written assignments. In addition, a minimum of one extended piece of writing is required. The instructor will strictly adhere to these particular requirements.

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**Academic Integrity / Plagiarism**

The University policy on academic integrity and freedom will be employed in the course. The policy can be found in the Sul Ross State University Student Handbook.

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated.

All students are required to abide by the Sul Ross State University honor code. The pledge for student's states: **Students at our University recognize that, to insure honest conduct, more is needed than an expectation of academic honesty, and we therefore adopt the practice of affixing the following pledge of honesty to the work we submit for evaluation: I pledge to uphold the principles of honesty and responsibility at our University.**

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## Assignment Policy

All assignments are due on or before the specified due date. Late assignments will not be accepted. Incompletes will only be given in extreme circumstances. **Most of the time there will be no Powerpoints distributed for this class. It's your responsibility to take adequate notes.** No assignments will be accepted via email.

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## Classroom Demeanor

This is a professional development course for prospective agriculture employees. Students are expected to begin finalizing the transition from University student to professional. To make this transition as smooth as possible, the following requirements will be enforced: **(Subject to my approval)**

- 1) Tobacco products will not be allowed in the classroom.
- 2) Please turn off all electronic devices (pagers, cell phones, etc.). If they go off during class session you will be asked to leave the classroom!
- 3) Professional dress will be expected in the classroom during presentations days.

## Drop / Add Policy

The University drop / add policy will be followed.

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## Students with Special Needs:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student's responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact me, Ms. Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Director/Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Suite 112) at 432.837.8203; mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.

## Marketable Skills for Department of Animal Science:

1. Knowledge of techniques and equipment for planting, growing, and harvesting food products (both plant and animal) for consumption, including storage/handling techniques.
2. Knowledge of plant and animal organisms, their tissues, cells, functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment.

3. Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem solving and decision-making.
4. Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
5. Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions. Communicating findings in both oral and written form at a level appropriate for the needs of the audience.

**Departmental Projected Learning Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate the basic skills of interpreting research data gathered in an agricultural context.
2. Apply critical thinking skills to mitigate potential challenges in diverse animal sciences and related agricultural industries.
3. Develop problem-solving skills, and demonstrate the ability to communicate through written, spoken, and graphical methods.

**Course delivery**

This course will be delivered face to face. At times, a class may be delivered via Zoom technologies. If you do not have Zoom downloaded on your phone or computer, please do so as soon as possible. You will be notified in advance if these classes will be held.

	Date	Topics:	Readings	Assignment
T	Week of Jan 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course introduction</li> <li>• Syllabus discussion</li> <li>• Video "7 Habits"</li> <li>• Worried about my Grade</li> <li>• Rich Dad Poor Dad</li> </ul>		Write a one-page, double-spaced synopsis on the videos
R		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your Attitude and Personality</li> <li>• Goal Setting and Life Management</li> <li>• Discuss Autobiography</li> </ul>	Professionalism – Chap. 1	
T	Jan 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SmartEdge</li> <li>• Credit and budgeting</li> <li>• Automotive Financing</li> </ul>		Autobiography Due
R		<continued> Mortgage Bank and Insurance	Professionalism – Chap. 2	
T	Jan 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam 1</li> </ul>		
R		<b>CAREER PRESENTATIONS</b>	(3 per day)	
T	Jan 31	<b>CAREER PRESENTATIONS</b>		
R		<b>CAREER PRESENTATIONS</b>		
T	Feb 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a technical report</li> <li>• Conducting Research</li> <li>• Ethics, Politics, and Diversity</li> <li>• Electronic Communications</li> </ul>	Professionalism – Chap. 5, Chap. 10	
R		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Etiquette / Dress</li> <li>• Building a resume</li> </ul>	Professionalism – Chap. 4, Chap. 14	
T	Feb 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality Organizations and Services</li> <li>• Human Resources and Policies</li> </ul>	Professionalism – Chap. 7 - 8	Cover letter due
R		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Tips for making effective presentations</li> </ul>	Professionalism – Chap. 9	

T	Feb 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accountability and Workplace Relationships</li> </ul>	Professionalism – Chap. 6	<b>Resume due</b>
R		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Exam #2</b></li> </ul>		
T	Feb 28	<b>ANIMAL SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES GROUP PRESENTATIONS</b>		
R		Open		
T	Mar 7	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
T	Mar 14	<b>ANIMAL SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES GROUP PRESENTATIONS</b>		
R		<b>ANIMAL SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES GROUP PRESENTATIONS</b>		
T	Mar 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teamwork, Motivation, and Leadership</li> </ul>	Professionalism – Chap. 11	
R		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflict and Negotiation</li> <li>Open floor about Technical Reports</li> </ul>	Professionalism – Chap. 12	
T	Mar 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview Techniques</li> <li>Career and Life Changes</li> </ul>	Professionalism – Chap. 15 Chap. 16	
R		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Exam #3</b></li> </ul>		<b>Technical Paper is Due</b>
T	Apr 4	<b>TECHNICAL PAPER PRESENTATION</b>	(2 Students per day)	
R		<b>TECHNICAL PAPER PRESENTATION</b>		
T	Apr 11	<b>TECHNICAL PAPER PRESENTATION</b>		
R		<b>TECHNICAL PAPER PRESENTATION</b>		

T	Apr 18	TECHNICAL PAPER PRESENTATION		
R		Reserved		Interview Due Date
T	Apr 25	Wrap UP		
R		No Class/Dead Day		

**GRADING:** All assignments are due on the day announced by the instructor. No late work will be accepted. This will be adhered to strictly.

Assignments will be graded on professionalism, spelling, grammar, completeness, and how well the student addressed the objectives of the assignment. Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are to be "word processed" or typed.

Final Grade Assignment:

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>Assignment:</b>	<b>Due Date:</b>	<b>Points Earned:</b>
Autobiography	Jan 23	/50
Exam # 1	As listed	/100
Exam # 2	As listed	/100
Exam # 3	As listed	/100
Cover Letter	Feb 14	/50
Resume	Feb 21	/50
Technical Report Research Paper	April 1	/200
Technical Report Presentation	TBD	/200
Career Presentation	As Assigned	/100

<b>Group Presentation</b>	<b>As Assigned</b>	<b>/200</b>
<b>Assignments</b>	<b>All assignments will be averaged</b>	<b>/100</b>
<b>Classroom Participation /Attendance</b>		<b>/100</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>/200</b>
<b>Pop Quizzes (unannounced)</b>		<b>/50</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>/1500 Points</b>

### **Career Presentations:**

Each student will present a seminar to the class (and guests) with the following requirements:

- a. **Length: 8-10 minutes, no less**
- b. Question and Answer period: 2-3 minutes additional; audience will be graded as well
- c. Topic- Career of choice related to your professional interest.

### **Animal Science Technologies (GROUP):**

Students will work in groups to research and present a topic related to technology use and advancement in animal science. The audience for the paper and presentation will be the **general adult public**, so your task is to inform those that do not have an animal science background. Each group will be required to deliver a presentation during the scheduled class period with the following requirements:

- a. Time Length: 30 minutes per group
- b. Topic – each group selects one topic
  - Genetic Manipulation on Animals
  - Cloning of Animals
  - Genetically modified crops
  - Stem Cell Research
  - Global Warming
  - Animal nutrient
  - Antibiotic use in Animal Production
  - Agricultural Education
  - Diversity in Agriculture
  - Farm bill
  - Land grant
- c. 10 minutes for question and answering
- d. Quiz

### **Technical research paper and presentation:**

The purpose of the technical paper is for students to have the experience of thoroughly reviewing information on a specific topic related to their major and then compiling the information in original organization, layout, and design to comprise a technical paper.

This will allow students to develop in-depth understanding of an agriculture topic, and thus provide the opportunity to become educated about one area of agriculture.

Technical paper criteria:

- Choose a topic that you are interested in within your major that has been extensively investigated. Topics are approved on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Paper should be 8 pages in length using double spacing between lines, and 12 characters per inch (standard type).
- All margins must be one inch and right margin not justified.
- Citations (within the body) and references must be presented according to a referred journal published in your discipline.
- Paper must include the following sections:



- 1) Cover page (title, name and date) – *Not counted*
- 2) Body
- 3) Conclusion/Implications
- 4) References cited – *Not counted*

**Students will present their technical paper to the class (15 minutes). *Maximum grade based on time (15+ min. – 100; 12-14 min. – 85; less than 12 min. – 69). Practice....Practice...Practice. You will be given a one min. signal.***

**Interview and Autobiography:**

Additional information will be supplied in class or through Blackboard.

**Resume and Cover Letter:**

Each student will submit a resume and cover letter for a job you would be interested in applying for after graduation. You must include a copy of the position description with your submission.