

## **ANSC 2301 Introduction to the Agricultural Sciences**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jamie Boyd  
**Office:** RAS 103A  
**Office Hours:** TBA  
**Office phone:** 432-837-8413  
**Email:** [jab15vg@sulross.edu](mailto:jab15vg@sulross.edu)  
**Lecture:** web

**Textbook:** The following book is used, but not required:

*The Science of Agriculture A Biological Approach*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition by Ray V. Herren ISBN-13: 978-1-4390-5776-6

**Course Description:** This course is designed to provide an overview of the agricultural sciences related to the scientific principles and practices of food and fiber production.

**Course Purpose:** This course is designed to provide an overview of the agricultural sciences related to the scientific principles and practices of food and fiber production.

**Course Goals:** At the conclusion of this course the student should be able to:

- Develop a basic foundation and understanding of the historical developments and scientific principles related to food and fiber production
- Gain expertise in the application of concepts presented in lecture
- Utilize analytical reasoning
- Demonstrate effective written communication skills

### **(ANSC) Student Learning Outcomes:**

Student will be able to:

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

**Assessment Measures:** Assessment of course goals will include the following:

At the end of this course, each student should have a basic understanding of the concepts and principles of different components of the agricultural sciences. Through laboratory sessions, each student will gain experience and an appreciation for scientific techniques and practical application of principles discussed in lecture. Success of achieving these results will be based on a minimum of 60% or better on all exams, quizzes and other assignments.

**Course Policies:** All students are expected to abide by the following rules:

- **Academic integrity:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Consult the Sul Ross Honor Code for a statement of the college's policies. Any violation of academic integrity may (will probably) result in a grade of zero for an assignment or a grade of "F" for the course. Unless otherwise specified, group studying and discussion is permitted for papers, but all work submitted must be the student's own and

individual work. No group work is permitted on quizzes or tests, which are closed note/book (unless otherwise specified).

- **Attendance:** Attendance is expected and it is your responsibility to attend. **There will be no make-up labs, quizzes or tests without prior approval!**
- **Late Work:** Assignments are always due at the time and date specified in the course schedule. Late assignments will be accepted for one day following the initial due date with a 20% late penalty.
- **Extra Credit:** There will be no extra credit assignments.

**Methods of Instruction:** Several methods of instruction will be used, including but not limited to:

**Lecture:** During class sessions, lecture will be used to provide the basic concepts related to agricultural science.

**Accommodation Statement:** It is the SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to seek any accommodations for this course, please contact Mary Schwartze at the Counseling and Accessibility Services Office: Ferguson Hall 112 phone: (432) 837-8203 as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

**Tutorial Availability:** Students who believe they may need tutoring in this class should contact me as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made to provide a tutor.

**Recommendations for Success:** In order to succeed in this class, I recommend that you dedicate at a minimum two hours of study time per class hour each week. The material covered in this course cannot be learned adequately in only a couple days, it is cumulative and each day's material will build on the previous day.

**Evaluation and Grading Scale:** Your course grade will be based on the following components:

**Exams and Quizzes:** There will be two exams administered throughout the semester. **The exams will be given on-line and the dates for these are noted on the daily schedule.** The final exam is a 30% comprehensive and 70% new material. All exams will be open for a 48hr period and each quiz will be open for 24hrs. You may only attempt each exam or quiz 1x. There will be 6 scheduled quizzes throughout the semester and I reserve the right to give unannounced pop quizzes at anytime during the semester. I will drop the lowest quiz score from your final grade. **There will be no make-up exams or quizzes without prior approval or a valid doctor's excuse. Voice or email messages are not considered valid excuses.**

**Spelling:** With the exception of multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank questions on exams, **all exam answers, homework, and papers must be written in complete sentences.**

**Other considerations:** Exams may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, matching, and diagrams. The final exam is comprehensive (non-negotiable). Cell phones and programmable calculators are not permitted during exams or quizzes.

**Points Available:**

3, one-hour exams (100 points each)	= 300
5 quizzes (20 points each)	= <u>100</u>
	400 possible points

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90-100%  
B = 80-89%  
C = 70-79%  
D = 60-69%  
F = 59% or below

## Tentative Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture</u>
June 5-9	Introduction/Importance of Ag and Ag history (Chapter 1) Plant systems/morphology/physiology (Chapter 7) Plant growth/nutrition & Soils (Chapter 2 & 9) <b>Quiz 1</b>
June 12-16	Plant genetics and Biotechnology (Chapter 4 & 5) Weeds/insect pests (Chapter 14) <b>Quiz 2</b> Home gardening Organic food production (Chapter 23)
June 19-23	Agriculture & the envir./Agroecology (Chapter 18) Cereal grains, Fruits, vegetables, nuts Peanuts/Cotton <b>Quiz 3</b> <b>Exam 1 (open until midnight 6/20)</b>
June 26-30	Intro to animal science/animal handling Domestication and Digestive physiology <b>Quiz 4</b> Genetics and Reproduction (Chapter 4 & 11) Safe meat production (Chapter 20) <b>Quiz 5</b> <b>Exam 2 (open until midnight 6/27)</b>
July 5-7	Beef Cattle/ Horses Sheep and Goats Dairy Cattle/Swine & Poultry <b>Quiz 6</b>  <b>Exam 3 cumulative (open until midnight 7/7)</b>

## Additional References:

Introductory Crop Science. Waldren, Richard P. 1998 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 1998. Burgess Publishing. Contemporary Issues in Animal Agriculture. Cheeke, Peter R. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 2004. Pearson Prentice Hall.  
Scientific Farm Animal Production. Taylor, Robert E. 1992 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Macmillian Publishing Company  
Producing Farm Crops. Boone, Lester V. 1991 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Interstate Publishers, Inc.  
American Agriculture: A Brief History. Hurt, R. Douglas. 1994 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. Iowa State University Press  
Inquiry into Life. Mader, Sylvia S. 1991 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. Wm. C. Brown Publishers.  
Ecology and Field Biology. Smith, Robert L. 1996 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. HarperCollins College Publishers  
Botany: Plant Form & Function. Moore, R. 1995 Wm. C. Brown Publishers.