

SYLLABUS

Turfgrass Management Laboratory (HORT 3403/3400L) Spring 2006

INSTRUCTOR

Instructor: Doug Karcher
Associate Professor
Department of Horticulture

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Office: 308 PTSC
Hours: Mon. & Wed., 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Students are welcome to drop in during office hours; however, scheduling an appointment will ensure minimal waiting. The instructor normally maintains an “open-door” policy, but if a meeting is necessary outside of regular office hours, an appointment should be made at least 24 hours in advance.

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: A laboratory-based course for students to gain practical knowledge and experience in turfgrass information gathering, species identification, turf calculations, calibration of application equipment, equipment maintenance and troubleshooting, turfgrass establishment, and renovation.

Pre-requisites: Introduction to Turfgrass Management (HORT 2303/2300L)

Course Credit: 3 hours.

Lecture: Monday, 3:30 – 5:20, ROSE 110
Laboratory: Wednesday, 3:30 – 5:20, ROSE 110

note: we will occasionally meet at the Horticulture Field Lab for lecture or laboratory sessions; check the course calendar regularly for meeting location.

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, students shall be able to:

1. Identify the major turfgrass species used in Arkansas.
2. Utilize electronic resources to assist in various aspects of turf management.
3. Calculate math problems related to turfgrass management.
4. Calibrate various types of application equipment used in turfgrass management.
5. Maintain common turfgrass management equipment.
6. Objectively evaluate various commercial products marketed towards turfgrass managers
7. Perform tasks necessary for successful turfgrass establishment and renovation.

Course website: <http://webct.uark.edu> (click "login" and use your comp mail user ID and password).

COURSE FORMAT

- Lectures:** The class will be instructed using a 1 hour lecture, normally during the first hour on Mondays. The lectures will be largely based upon information from various turfgrass and soils textbooks and manuals. Since many of these materials will not be accessible to the students outside of the classroom, lecture attendance is important and is required.
- Laboratory:** One 2-hour lab session (Wednesdays) and a second session (up to 1 hour on Mondays) will be used per week for class discussions and laboratory exercises. Many laboratory exercises will be conducted in pre-assigned groups. Therefore, laboratory attendance and participation is critical and will be graded.
- Homework:** Homework will consist primarily of problem sets and laboratory reports and will be assigned regularly.
- Quizzes:** A short quiz will be administered at the beginning of most Wednesday laboratory sessions and will cover material from recent lectures. As everyone occasionally has an "off" day, each student will be allowed to drop their lowest quiz score when final grades are calculated.
- Examinations:** Three exams (2 midterms and 1 final) will be administered during the semester. Each exam will be cumulative in the sense that students will need to use concepts covered earlier in the semester to adequately answer questions. However, the majority of each exam will cover topics covered in lecture and lab sessions since the previous exam.
- Make Up Work:** No make-up quizzes will be administered (with the exception of students traveling on official university activities excused in advance). Exams can be made up if the instructor is given notice of planned absences at least 2 class periods before the exam or a doctor's note from the Health Center is presented to the instructor immediately after an illness. No make-up exams will be given after 1 week following the original exam time. Late homework will be deducted by 10% for each day it is late (homework is considered late if it is not turned in during the class period in which it is due).
- Students who are utilizing the Center for Americans with Disabilities and have special needs should make the instructors aware of such. Special testing arrangements must be made in advance of any examination with a recommendation from the ADA office.
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GRADING

<u>Grading:</u>	Lab attendance and participation	20%
	Quizzes	20%
	Lab reports and homework	30%
	Exams	30%

Grade Calculation: (lab points earned / total lab points) x 20% +
(quiz points earned / total quiz points) x 20% +
(homework points earned / total homework points) x 30% +
(exam points earned / total exam points) x 30%

<u>Grading Scale:</u>	≥ 90%	A
	87 – 89%	B+
	83 – 86%	B
	80 – 82%	B-
	77 – 79%	C+
	73 – 76%	C
	70 – 72%	C-
	67 – 69%	D+
	63 – 66%	D
	60 – 62%	D-
	< 60%	F

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Academic Honesty: The instructor assumes that the students will display a high level of integrity and academic honesty. Therefore, **cheating, copying, or plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Students will be required to read and understand the University Rules on Academic Honesty found in the Undergraduate Student Catalog. Infractions of University policies will be dealt with according to University procedures. You may anonymously report incidents or allegations of academic honesty to Dr. Karcher; Students are strongly encouraged to express any related concerns with the instructor. All violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Judicial Affairs office and the DBCAFLS Dean's office.

Inclement Weather: HORT 3403 will meet during scheduled class time whenever the University is open. If you have questions, please check the UA Undergraduate Student Catalogue or see the University Homepage (<http://www.uark.edu>) for details and weather updates. If class is canceled for any reason, students will be notified at least one hour in advance via e-mail.

Special Assistance: Students who are utilizing the Center for Americans with Disabilities and have special needs should make the instructor aware of such within the first week of class. Special testing arrangements must be made in advance of any examination with a recommendation from the ADA office.

Religious Holidays: If the scheduling of homework assignments or examinations interferes with the observance of religious holidays, please inform the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements in advance.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week Beginning	Topic
January 16	Course Overview; Turf seed identification
January 23	Turfgrass math
January 30	Information gathering
February 6	Measuring turf areas
February 13	Calibration
February 20	Cool-season turf identification; Midterm #1 (2/22)
February 27	Warm-season turf identification
March 4	Turf establishment
March 12	Mower maintenance
March 19	SPRING BREAK
March 26	Soil testing and fertilization
April 2	Cultivation, topdressing, rolling Midterm #2 (4/4)
April 9	Irrigation
April 16	Renovation
April 23	Renovation
April 30	Renovation
Final Exam Schedule	Dead Day – May 5 Final Exam – May 8 (12:30 pm – 2:30 pm)