PLSC 210: Horticulture Principles and Practices, Fall 2023
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

COURSE INFORMATION

Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:10 to 5:00 pm
Location: Room 124 South Greenhouse
Course Credit: 3.0 Hours
Prerequisites: BIOL 113 or BIOL 114 or consent of instructor

Faculty Contact Information
Amanda Spangler
aplante@utk.edu
223 Third Creek Building
865-974-5193
Office Hours: by appointment on Zoom

Welcome Statement
My name is Amanda Spangler, and I will be your instructor for the course. I am looking forward to getting to know you this semester! This class will have scheduled weekly assignments due, as well as online discussion forums, readings, quizzes, and course materials.

This is not a self-paced course. It’s important that you manage your own time each week to know when assignments, and any other weekly course obligations, are due. This will involve regularly logging into Canvas to check communications, monitoring your campus email address, and interacting with your classmates, myself, and course materials.

I look forward to working with you this semester and getting off to a strong start!

Instructor Availability
Please feel welcome to email me with updates, questions, or concerns. I will typically respond within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours on the weekend and holidays. I will notify you if I will be out of town and if connection issues may delay a response.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the science and technology underlying the use and production of horticultural crops and landscape plants. Structure, growth and development of horticultural plants from a practical and scientific approach, environmental effects, basic principles of propagation, greenhouse and outdoor production, nutrition, pruning and chemical control of growth, pest control, and the various branches of horticulture.

Student Learning Outcomes

Everyone is impacted through their involvement in the horticultural sciences. The course has been designed to introduce both the science and practical applications of all areas within horticulture. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the structure, growth, and development of horticultural plants from a practical and scientific standpoint.
2. Describe the underlying environmental effects that impact the growth and development of horticultural crops.
3. Have an understanding of the basic principles of propagation, greenhouse and outdoor production, nutrition, pruning and chemical control of growth, pest control, and the various branches of horticulture.

This is an Applied Oral Communication (AOC) class offered through the Vol Core curriculum. Oral communication skills enable students to interact successfully with others, share ideas, and present and explain discoveries, all of which are necessary for professional success and personal fulfillment. Upon completion of this course, students will be expected to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly and effectively within a disciplinary area or profession.
2. Demonstrate the ability to locate and use relevant, credible evidence to support ideas in accordance with disciplinary or professional standards.
3. Demonstrate the ability to effectively analyze potential audiences to shape message, organization, language choices, and delivery techniques in accord with disciplinary or professional purpose.
4. Engage in communication consistent with the ethical responsibilities of communicators within their respective disciplinary or professional contexts.
5. Model respect for diversity and cross-cultural verbal and nonverbal communication practices when interacting with targeted audiences.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Many of our sessions will use a flipped classroom approach. The flipped classroom is a teaching model in which the typical lecture and homework elements of a course are reversed. Video lessons are viewed by students at home before the class session, while in-class time is devoted to exercises, projects, or discussions.
The notion of a flipped classroom draws on such concepts as active learning, student engagement, and hybrid course design. The value of a flipped class is that classroom time is converted into a workshop where students can ask questions about course content, test their knowledge by applying skills during activities, and interact with their peers.

Many of your assignments will be administered through Canvas, the University of Tennessee’s Learning Management System. Additional Canvas and Zoom resources are available for students unfamiliar with these online environments. If you need any equipment to complete this course online, you can borrow equipment from Pendergrass Library.

**HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE**

Students are expected to attend each class, and they are encouraged to prepare for class by reading the sections of the textbook outlined in the semester calendar. Follow along with the semester calendar to be aware of upcoming assignments and assessments. Reach out to the instructor as soon as possible with any questions, ideas, or concerns about the class.

**Learner Expectations**

- Be prepared for all classes
- Be respectful of others
- Actively contribute to the class and learning activities
- Commit to setting and meeting high expectations for yourself
- Stay up-to-date on materials posted to the course Canvas site
- Read and (if necessary) respond to communications from the instructor
- Completely read and follow all instructions given for assignments and assessments
- Ask the instructor for clarification when needed
- Abide by the [UT Student Code of Conduct](#)

**Instructor Expectations**

- Start and end class on time
- Be prepared for all classes
- Evaluate all fairly and equitably
- Be respectful of all students
- Create and facilitate meaningful learning activities
- Clearly and effectively communicate course expectations and content
- Be open to constructive input from students in the course
- Abide by the University codes of conduct

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**
Texts, Resources, and Materials
Recommended (but not required) readings will be from McMahon et al.’s *Plant Science: Growth, Development, and Utilization of Cultivated Plants* (6th edition) ISBN-13: 978-0135184820. Textbook is available at a discounted rate from VolBooks (VitalSource) on Canvas, for purchase from the VolShop, online retailers, and on reserve in Pendergrass Library. You may use the 5th edition if preferred, however, you are responsible for making sure that you are reading from the correct section of the textbook.

Required Equipment
Students must have a working computer in order to complete assignments. If you need any equipment to complete this course online, you can borrow equipment from Pendergrass Library. Students may be able to participate in class by using resources available in an on-campus computer lab.

Course Resources

Canvas
This course will use Canvas via Online@UT. As a student registered for this course you are automatically loaded into the course Canvas site, and it should appear on your homepage. I will post course announcements and materials on the Canvas site. Unless otherwise specified, all exams, discussion groups, and quizzes must be completed online through Canvas, and reports must be submitted online through Canvas.

Zoom
We will be using LiveOnline@UT (Zoom) for virtual office hours, for some group meetings, and, when determined necessary by the instructor or University, online class sessions.

iNaturalist
This course may use on iNaturalist.org, a social network for naturalists, to enable the class to record and share observations. Some activities and assignments will take place on the UTK PLSC 210 project which will record and share observations with classmates and the broader iNaturalist community.

Technical Support
For technical issues, contact the OIT HelpDesk by phone at (865) 974-9900 or at the Walk-in HelpDesk. For IT and Computing issues, use the online Contact Form. Again, if you need any equipment to complete the online portion of this course, you can borrow equipment from Pendergrass Library.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Classroom Etiquette
All online and offline communication should adhere to UT’s Principles of Civility and Community.
Announcements
Announcements will be used to communicate with you about course logistics. All students are responsible for logging into Canvas on a daily basis to check for course updates. The three most recent announcements are posted at the top of the course home page. Students should check their Canvas notification settings to ensure they receive instructor announcements.

Discussions
We may have in-person and virtual discussion groups in this class. When engaging in class discussions, remember to: respect each other's ideas, feelings and experience; be courteous and considerate; and explore disagreements and support assertions with data and evidence.

Email
All students are provided with a working university email address. The instructor will use university email to communicate course information. Students are responsible for staying up-to-date on email communications. For assistance with email, please visit help.utk.edu. Thank you for your attention to detail and professional courtesy in all communications regarding the class, including email.

COURSE ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Participation in each class is crucial to fulfilling class purposes. Students are expected to attend all classes. Students may not be distracted or distracting during class.

Technology
Unless otherwise stated, cell phones, tablets, and laptops should be used for notetaking purposes only, but may not be used for recording audio or visuals. Sharing audio or visual files may violate University policy, copyright laws, or other restrictions. Smart phones and other technology will be turned off and remain in backpacks or purses during quizzes and exams. Use calculators and not smart phones during exams.

Readings and Videos
It is important that all assigned videos and reading materials are reviewed prior to the lecture period. You will get much more out of our class meetings and perform better on in-class assignments and assessments if you have prepared yourself ahead of time with the and come prepared to ask any questions you may have regarding the material. In addition to recommended readings from the textbook, supplemental reading assignments will be posted on Canvas.

Outdoor Lessons and Labs
Our class will frequently get hands-on experience in the lab, greenhouse, and outdoors. Class will be held regardless of weather conditions. Students should dress appropriately for the weather and the work. Students are encouraged to wear durable clothing that can get
dirty, and they are required to wear closed-toe and closed-heel shoes on all specified days (inside or outdoors).

**Guest Speakers**
We are extremely fortunate to host guest speakers for many class sessions. These are professionals in their field, and their input often replaces recommended reading from the textbook. You are expected to be respectful, take notes, and ask speakers thoughtful questions.

**Campus Closures**
If the university closes campus for any reason, including inclement weather, students who are unable to attend, submit assignments, or otherwise participate in a class session will not be penalized.

### ASSIGNMENTS, ASSESSMENTS, AND EVALUATIONS

**Exams**
Students will be evaluated on their progress through 4 examinations. Each exam is worth 100 points. No make-up exams or quizzes will be given unless a student has a valid excuse as recognized by the University.

**Assignments**
Experiential learning will be facilitated through either individual or group assignments for the course. Each assignment is worth 100 points. The Plant Adaptations assignment, Plant Problems project, the Propagation Experiment, and the Mathematical Problem Set will create student engagement in problem solving in a broad array of horticultural topics. Student work is expected to meet the content and formatting requirements outlined in the assignment sheets.

**Daily Engagement**
At the beginning of the semester, students will be provided with a notebook in which to record observations and quiz responses. Students will turn in their notebook at the end of each class period and will be assigned a grade of up to **10 points** for their daily engagement, observations, and activities (as outlined by the instructor in class). At the end of the semester, your three lowest journal grades will be dropped. Dropping of the three lowest scores is intended to hold students harmless if a class needs to be missed due to an illness or other excused absence. No make-up or alternative assignments will be provided.

**Volunteer Experience**
Students have the option to complete 10 hours of volunteer experience, where they will have the opportunity to apply practices learned in class. Completed service hours will contribute **up to 50 bonus points** to students’ final grades. **Volunteer experience must be approved by the instructor prior to beginning work.** Grades will be a combination of
completion of the 10 hours, receipt of an evaluation from the volunteer site host, and a brief report from the student about their experience.

**Academic Honesty and Student Conduct**
For this course, academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, not receiving unauthorized assistance to complete an assignment and selling or purchasing course assignments or assessments. Academic honesty will apply in accordance with policies found in Hilltopics, the official student handbook of the University of Tennessee. Students must adhere to the principles and rules of the University and pursue academic work in a straightforward and truthful manner, free from deception or fraud.

In this course, it is expected that all submitted work is produced by the students themselves, whether individually or collaboratively. Students must not seek the assistance of Generative AI Tools like ChatGPT. Use of a Generative AI Tool to complete an assignment constitutes academic dishonesty.

**GRADING CRITERIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>400 pts (100 pts ea.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Engagement (journals and quizzes)</td>
<td>300 pts (10 pts ea., 3 lowest dropped)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematical Problem Set</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Adaptations</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Problems</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propagation Experiment</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Extra Credit Volunteer Assignment</em></td>
<td><em>Up to 100 pts</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points Available</strong></td>
<td><strong>1100 pts</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale**
Final grades will be assigned in accordance with the UT grading scale. For further explanation about student [UT Grades and GPA](#) or other policies related to academic standing, please reach out to OneStop.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Projected Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>More than 93 %</td>
<td>1023 to 1100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 to less than 93 %</td>
<td>990 to 1022 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 to less than 90 %</td>
<td>957 to 989 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 to less than 87 %</td>
<td>913 to 956 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 to less than 83 %</td>
<td>880 to 912 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 to less than 80 %</td>
<td>847 to 879 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 to less than 77 %</td>
<td>803 to 846 pts</td>
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</table>
Dear Student,

The purpose of this Campus Syllabus is to provide you with important information that applies to all UTK courses. Please observe the following policies and familiarize yourself with the university resources listed below. At UT, we are committed to providing you with a high-quality learning experience. I want to wish you the best for a successful and productive semester.

- Dr. John Zomchick, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

**Academic Integrity**
Each student is responsible for their personal integrity in academic life and for adhering to UT's Honor Statement. The Honor Statement reads: “An essential feature of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the university, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

**Your Role in Improving the Course Through Assessment**
At UT, it is our collective responsibility to improve the state of teaching and learning. During the semester you may be requested to assess aspects of this course, either during class or at the completion of the class, and through the TNVoice course evaluation. Please take the few moments needed to respond to these requests as they are used by instructors, department heads, deans and others to improve the quality of your UT learning experience.

**Students with Disabilities** – [http://sds.utk.edu](http://sds.utk.edu)
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment for all students. If you anticipate or experience a barrier in this course due to a chronic health condition, a learning, hearing, neurological, mental health, vision, physical, or other kind of disability, or a temporary injury, you are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services (SDS) at 865-974-6087 or sds@utk.edu. An SDS Coordinator will meet with you to develop a plan to ensure you have equitable access to this course. If you are already registered with SDS, please contact your instructor to discuss implementing accommodations included in your course access letter.
Accessibility Policy and Training – http://accessibility.utk.edu
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, provides reasonable accommodations for individual students with disabilities through its office of Student Disability Services. The university is also committed to making information and materials accessible, when possible. Resources and assistance to support these efforts can be found at http://accessibility.utk.edu/.

Wellness – http://wellness.utk.edu/ and http://counselingcenter.utk.edu/
The Center for Health Education and Wellness empowers all Volunteers to thrive by cultivating personal and community well-being. The Center can answer questions about general wellness, substance use, sexual health, healthy relationships, and sexual assault prevention. The Student Counseling Center is the university’s primary facility for personal counseling, psychotherapy, and psychological outreach and consultation services.

Any student who has difficulty affording hygiene products, groceries, or accessing sufficient food to eat every day is urged to contact the Big Orange Pantry for support. The Big Orange Pantry, located in Greve Hall, is a free resource for all students, faculty, and staff, no matter how great or small their need is. Students who need emergency financial assistance can also request funding from the Student Emergency Fund.

Students who are experiencing non-academic difficulty or distress and need assistance should call 974-HELP or submit an online referral. The 974-HELP team specializes in aligning resources and support to students experiencing mental health distress.

Emergency Alert System – http://safety.utk.edu/
The University of Tennessee is committed to providing a safe environment to learn and work. When you are alerted to an emergency, please take appropriate action. Learn more about what to do in an emergency and sign up for UT Alerts. Check the emergency posters near exits and elevators for building specific information. In the event of an emergency, the course schedule and assignments may be subject to change. If changes to graded activities are required, reasonable adjustments will be made, and you will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines.

COVID-19 Guidelines
CDC guidance recognizes the changing dynamics of living in a world with COVID-19. It rates COVID-19 community levels as low, medium, and high, with recommendations at each level about the use of masks and other precautions. At all levels of community spread, staying up-to-date with vaccination is the best way to protect yourself from serious illness and to limit the spread of COVID-19. Wearing a mask is always an option for any individual who chooses to do so, and the CDC recommends that those with high risk of severe illness talk with their health care providers. If you are sick, please stay in, avoid being around others as much as possible, and contact your health care provider for any symptoms that are worsening, moderate to severe, or concerning to you. For more information about vaccination or to self-report an illness and receive support, visit http://studenthealth.utk.edu/CommunityHealth. For more information about COVID-19, visit http://studenthealth.utk.edu/covid-19.
KEY CAMPUS RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

- **974-HELP** (developed to help distressed or distressing students reach their academic goals and to help maintain a safe community and learning environment for all students)
- **Center for Career Development** (Career counseling and resources, HIRE-A-VOL job search system)
- **Computer Labs**
- **Course Catalogs** (Listing of academic programs, courses, and policies)
- **COVID-19 Information and Support** (Visit the site for a list of resources)
- **Herbert Virtual Learning Commons** (Academic support, tools for individual study, wellness resources, and study groups)
- **Hilltopics** (Campus and academic policies, procedures and standards of conduct)
- **Judith Anderson Writing Help Center** (Writing support, navigating the writing process, and writing guides)
- **OIT HelpDesk** (865) 974-9900
- **Schedule of Classes/Timetable**
- **Student Counseling Center** (Visit the site for a list of services)
- **Student Health Center** (Visit the site for a list of services)
- **Student Success Center** (Academic support resources)
- Study Spaces (Check out this [Map of Quiet Indoor and Outdoor Study Spaces on Campus](#) to learn where you can find a distraction-free spot to attend online classes.)
- **Undergraduate Academic Advising** (Advising resources, course requirements, and major guides)
- **University Libraries** (Access to library resources, databases, course reserves, and services)

*This document is subject to change at any time at the discretion of the instructor.*
### PLSC 210 SEMESTER CALENDAR

In addition to the schedule provided below, the Canvas Calendar is a great way to view everything you have to do for all your courses in one place. Each calendar view shows any assignments or events that have been added.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics to be Covered</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 W</td>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>First day of class: Syllabus and Introductions</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Plant Adaptations</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>History of Agriculture and Horticulture</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Plant Classification</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 M</td>
<td>9/04</td>
<td><strong>No Class - Labor Day Holiday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/06</td>
<td>Soils</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/08</td>
<td>Structure of Higher Plants pt. 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Plant Problems 1</em></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Structure of Higher Plants pt. 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 W</td>
<td>9/13</td>
<td>Plant Growth and Development pt. 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Plant Growth and Development pt. 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Plant Growth Regulators</td>
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<td>4 M</td>
<td>9/20</td>
<td>Genetics and Propagation pt. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/22</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 1</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>Genetics and Propagation pt. 2</td>
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<td>*Lab: Propagation Experiment pt. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/27</td>
<td>Photosynthesis and Respiration pt. 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Plant Problems 2</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 W</td>
<td>10/02</td>
<td>Water Relations</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/04</td>
<td>Mineral Nutrition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/08</td>
<td><strong>Lab: Propagation Experiment pt. 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 M</td>
<td>10/09</td>
<td><strong>No Class – Fall Break</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>Soil Management</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Plant Problems 3</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>Fertility Management</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>Water Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 W</td>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>Integrated Pest Management pt. 1</td>
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<td><em>Mathematical Problem Set</em></td>
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<td><strong>Plant Problems 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>10/20</td>
<td>Integrated Pest Management pt. 2</td>
<td>Ch. 15, pp. 332-361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>10/23</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>Guest Speaker TBD, UT Extension</td>
<td>Plant Problems 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>10/27</td>
<td><strong>Group Meetings – Plant Problems</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>Group Presentations – Plant Problems</td>
<td>Plant Problems Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>11/01</td>
<td>Nursery Management and Tour</td>
<td>Ch. 22, pp. 558-568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>11/03</td>
<td>Greenhouse Management and Tour</td>
<td>Ch. 23, pp. 569-584(97)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>11/06</td>
<td>Landscape Plants pt. 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>11/08</td>
<td>Landscape Plants pt. 2</td>
<td>Ch. 25, pp. 630-652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>Landscape Plants pt. 3</td>
<td>Math Problem Set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>Special Topics, TBD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>11/15</td>
<td>Special Topics, TBD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>Special Topics, TBD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>Special Topics, TBD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>11/22</td>
<td><strong>No Class Day</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>11/24</td>
<td><strong>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>11/27</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>Lab: Propagation Experiment pt. 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>12/01</td>
<td><strong>Group Meetings – Propagation Experiment</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>12/04</td>
<td>Group Presentations – Propagation Experiment</td>
<td>Propagation Experiment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>12/06</td>
<td>Final Exam Review</td>
<td>Peer Evals Due; Volunteer Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong> (4) TBD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This schedule is subject to change at any time at the discretion of the instructor.