

**PLSC 410 Nursery Production and Management, Spring 2025**  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Section:** 001- 31489

**Meeting Time and Place:** Tues 11:20 am to 12:35 pm  
Brehm Animal Science Bldg. Rm. 142

**Course Credit Hours:** 3 hours

**Faculty Contact Information**

Dr. Bill Klingeman

[wklingem@utk.edu](mailto:wklingem@utk.edu)

261 Plant Biotechnology Bldg.

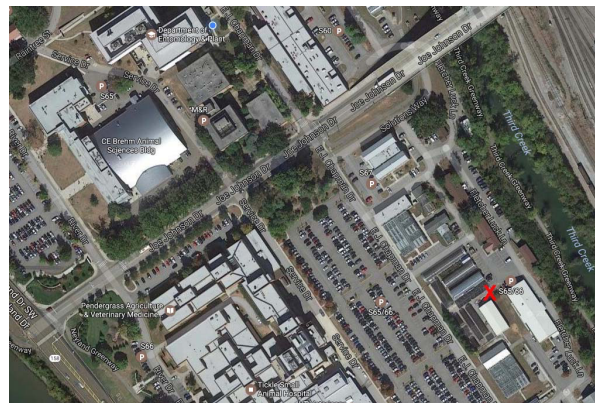
865-974-7964

Office Hours: On Zoom, and by Appointment



Class-time Alternative

Hands-On Learning Activities Location --->



**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Management methods as applied to retail and wholesale nurseries and landscape contracting firms. Methods of producing liners, container and field-grown woody liners, containers and field-grown ornamental plants. **Satisfies Vol Core Requirement: (VC Written Communication) (RE) Prerequisite(s): English 102 or 132 or 290 or 298.**

*Recommended Background: Working knowledge and familiarity with regionally adapted ornamental plant varieties.*

*Comment(s): Offered Spring in alternate, odd-numbered years.*

3 hours lecture (with in-class hands on learning exercises).

**Course main topics include:**

- Fundamentals of nursery site selection, design & development
- Principles of nursery production & cropping systems
- Irrigation for Green Industry operations
- General financing & overall Green Industry economics
- Container, pot-in-pot & field production systems for ornamental nursery plants
- Harvesting, storage & shipping of nursery products
- Advertising & marketing plants
- Management skills & effective supervising
- Personnel, labor management & challenges of seasonal labor
- Labor laws, business certification & phytosanitation
- Pesticides & risk management
- Weed management & nursery IPM

*This course is intended to provide an overview of the principles of nursery management and production. Many factors can also be applied in greenhouse systems. **Students who have specific career objectives that include greenhouse or nursery production, retail or commercial product sales, or specialty propagation are encouraged to complete a written report (in conjunction with this course) and to solicit supervision of a faculty-directed independent study project (PS 493).** See Dr. Klingeman for additional information.*

**Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives:**

This course has been designed to introduce students to technical writing and resource utilization within the framework of learning that will help participants to be conversant about methods of producing liners, container and field-grown woody liners, containers and field-grown ornamental plants and management of staff associated with commercial operations.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe and discuss from the standpoint of practicality and efficiency, the relative merits of nursery design and potential for growth, as related to common production system inputs.
- Discuss environmental effects that influence seasonal growth, development, and harvest of ornamental plants.
- Have ability to express a basic understanding of principles of ornamental plant propagation, container and field production, irrigation, nutrition, pruning, IPM, and risk management by green industry professionals.
- Evaluate merits of methods of advertising and marketing ornamental plants.
- Communicate pros and cons related to strategies for specialization and niche development.
- Function in a professional manner and with basic knowledge of ornamental production operations as an entry level wholesale or retail green industry employee.
- Know and discuss the basic skills required to be a competent and productive manager.

## LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

This is principally a Face-to-Face course. Some portions of lecture content may be pre-recorded and available in Canvas for asynchronous viewing. You will participate in this course using Canvas, the University of Tennessee's Learning Management System. If necessary during the semester, synchronous sessions will be conducted using Zoom. 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 submit a technology request online at [forms.utk.edu/tech-request](https://forms.utk.edu/tech-request).**

## COURSE COMMUNICATIONS

- Communication for this course will occur through Canvas and university email (@vols.utk.edu). Announcements will be posted via Canvas with course updates, materials and reminders. Make sure email notifications for Canvas are turned on for this course.
- For specific questions, please reach out to the instructor for this class via the utk.edu email address which you can find at the top of this syllabus.
- **When emailing questions or concerns, please use the email header: "PLSC 410 assistance".**
- **If submitting documents, challenge exercises, etc., you must INCLUDE YOUR LASTNAME as part of the DOCUMENT FILE NAME.**
- Emails will most frequently be answered on business/workdays between 8 and 5 pm, but please allow one business day for email replies. Replies from the instructor may not be given during evening hours and weekends.
- For technical issues, contact the OIT HelpDesk via phone (865) 974-9900 or online at <http://help.utk.edu/>.

### Online "Classroom" Etiquette (Netiquette)

All online and offline communication should adhere to [UT's Principles of Civility and Community](#).

## HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE

Students are expected to attend each virtual class, and they are encouraged to prepare for class by completing the assigned readings sections of the textbook outlined in the semester calendar. Students are expected to follow along with the lecture schedule and online assignment 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 Responsibilities

- Be prepared for all classes by setting aside time each week to complete any asynchronous readings and module content.
- Actively contribute to the learning activities in class and be respectful of others
- 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's Responsibilities**

- Be prepared for all classes
- Evaluate all fairly and equally
- Be respectful of all students
- Engage and encourage constructive discussion and conversations
- Create and facilitate meaningful learning activities
- Behave according to University codes of conduct

## **ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

### **Suggested Texts:**

A textbook is not required, but the following books and more are on **Course Reserve** (for PLSC 410) at *Pendergrass AgVet Library* and may be beneficial to you throughout the course.

**Nursery management: administration and culture.** Davidson, H., R. Mecklenburg, and C. Peterson, 2000 (4th ed.) SB118.5 D38 2000

**The reference manual of woody plant propagation: from seed to tissue culture: a practical working guide to the propagation of over 1100 species, varieties, and cultivars.** Dirr, M. and Heuser, W. 2006. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) SB119 D57 2006

**Manual of woody landscape plants: their identification, ornamental characteristics, culture, propagation and uses.** Dirr, M. 1998 SB435.5 D57 or 2009 (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) SB435.5 D57

### **Required Equipment:**

A laptop or smart phone with webcam and microphone capabilities.

### **Course Resources:**

All required course resources and materials can be found in our Canvas site. Supplemental text book and reference books are on Course Reserve at Pendergrass AgVet Library.

### **Course Requirements, Assessments, and Evaluations:**

- All students are expected to check the Canvas course site and their university email on a regular basis. This will ensure your ability to stay on track within the course.
- Active participation within the course modules, in-class lecture discussion, check-in activities, and writing exercises is encouraged and expected.

### **Assignment Policies:**

- All assignments are explained via information provided within Canvas modules and on the syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to read the material provided within Canvas to better understand each assignment.
- All assignments must be submitted as an MS Word document to Canvas. Oral presentations made by Case Study presenters will be made to the class.
- If you have a conflict with assignment dates, you should contact course instructor BEFORE the assignment deadline so an arrangement can be worked out.

- **Unexcused late work will be accepted up to two class days past the due date and will be penalized 10% each day. After which, late assignments will not be accepted.**

#### **Challenge Exercises:**

- Career and professional expectations of ‘A grade’ students are high and achieving the highest levels is difficult. In fact, it may require you to seek opportunities to pursue additional Challenge Exercises. Challenge Exercises (see list in Canvas module, or propose your own) will be available for points throughout the semester. Each challenge is graded as having been achieved or not. Challenges can be turned in at any class period during the semester.

### **COURSE ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

- Participation in each class is crucial to fulfilling class purposes. Students should not be distracted or distracting during class. Cell phones, tablets, and laptops should be used for online attendance, participation, and note taking purposes only.

#### **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 an online class session will not be penalized.

### **COURSE POLICY ON USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY**

**The Instructor’s Intention in making this a VolCore WC course is to provide students with personalized constructive feedback to the student’s independently created technical writing.**

*All writing, and technical writing in particular, is an individualized process that must be practiced to be learned and that is frequently difficult, usually challenging, more than occasionally frustrating, yet is often personally rewarding “when it all comes together”. Using AI, especially for outlining and content ideation, can be helpful. However, reliance on AI for writing in this course will deprive you meaningful feedback that could inform your future learned process as a student of technical writing. Carefully consider AI use in your writing assignments.*

**Guidelines for Acceptable Moderate Use: AI may be used in specific assignments, but not all. Students must disclose any AI assistance.**

#### **AI Policy: Permitted when Assigned in this Course with Attribution**

In this course, students are permitted to use Generative AI Tools such as ChatGPT for specific assignments, as designated by, or upon permission granted by the instructor. To maintain academic integrity, students must disclose any use of AI-generated material. As always, students must properly use attributions, including in-text citations, quotations, and references.

A student should include the following statement in assignments to indicate use of a Generative AI Tool: “The author(s) would like to acknowledge the use of [Generative AI Tool Name], a language model developed by [Generative AI Tool Provider], in the preparation of this assignment. The [Generative AI Tool Name] was used in the following way(s) in this assignment [e.g., brainstorming, grammatical correction, citation, which portion of the assignment].”

## GRADING AND PERFORMANCE LEVELS

You will ascend performance levels based on points accrued as a result of various activities. Points accrued to achieve each level cannot be lost. Performance levels are regularly updated (weekly) and can be made available to you at a scheduled office appointment.

**An example** of leveling structure that is used to determine your final grade follows.

**Please NOTE:** the tallies below represent an example only. Final point accruals are expected to change on the basis of additional assignments, quizzes, and exam formats that will be developed within the course.

Level	Points	Grade for this level
0	<300	F
1	300-329	D-
2	330-359	D
3	360-389	D+
4	390-419	C-
5	420-449	C
6	450-479	C+
7	480-509	B-
8	510-539	B
9	540-569	B+
10	570-599	A-
11	600+	A

### Tentatively Planned Performance Assessments\*:

2	100 Point Exams	200
3	10 pt Pop Quizzes	30
1	10 pt Production Type discussion	10
1	15 pt Production Position paper	15
2	15 pt Assigned Reading summaries	30
3/2	30 pt Term Paper/Case Study section rough drafts	90/60
1	15 pt Term Paper/Case Study Outline - <i>early draft</i>	15
1	25 pt Term Paper/Case Study Outline - <i>final</i>	25
1	50 pt Final (corrected/compiled) Term/Case Study paper	50
1	30 pt Oral Presentation ( <i>Case Study only</i> )	30
1	100 pt Final Exam	100
<b>TOTAL ASSIGNED POINTS</b>		<b>600*</b>

\* Point total subject to change; Levels will be adjusted proportionately with changes to final point total

**\*Make-up quizzes/exams will not be provided excepting extenuating circumstances.**

## **Key Campus Resources for Students:**

- [Center for Career Development](#) (Career counseling and resources; HIRE-A-VOL job search system)
- [Course Catalogs](#) (Listing of academic programs, courses, and policies)
- [Hilltopics](#) (Campus and academic policies, procedures and standards of conduct)
- [OIT HelpDesk](#) (865) 974-9900
- [Schedule of Classes/Timetable](#)
- [Student Health Center](#) (visit the site for a list of services)
- [Student Success Center](#) (Academic support resources)
- [Undergraduate Academic Advising](#) (Advising resources, course requirements, and major guides)
- [University Libraries](#) (Access to library resources, databases, course reserves, and services)

## **University Policies:**

### **Academic Integrity:**

“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.”

### **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.

### **University Civility Statement:**

Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other’s well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: <http://civility.utk.edu/>.

**Disability Services:**

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Student Disability Services in Dunford Hall, at 865-974-6087, or by video relay at, 865-622-6566, to coordinate reasonable academic accommodations.

**Your Role in Improving Teaching and Learning Through Course 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. You are encouraged to respond to these various forms of assessment as a means of continuing to improve the quality of the UT learning experience.

*The instructor reserves the right to revise, alter or amend this syllabus as necessary. Students will be notified by email through Canvas Announcements of any such changes.*