

**MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY  
COURSE SYLLABUS OUTLINE**

**SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE  
COURSE NUMBER: AGR 140**

**CREDIT HOURS: 3**

**I. TITLE:**

Plant Science

**II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A study of general plant science principles, including basic plant anatomy, physiology, and interactions with the surrounding environment.

**III. PURPOSE:**

To make the student aware of cultural and environmental factors that influence plant growth and development.

**IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- A. To develop a basic understanding of different plant systems and the environmental influences that affect plant growth.
- B. To develop a basic understanding of practices such as planting, propagation, pruning, watering, fertilizing, harvesting, and other important cultural aspects in plant growth.
- C. To learn a general knowledge of caring for agronomic and horticultural plants.

**V. CONTENT OUTLINE:**

- A. Introduction
- B. Plant Anatomy
- C. Plant Propagation
- D. Plant Growth and Development
- E. Plant Processes
- F. The Soil Environment
- G. Water and Nutrient Management
- H. Climatic Influences on Crop Production
- I. Biological Competitors of Useful Plants

**VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

- A. Lectures
- B. Demonstrations – used to illustrate certain points in lecture
- C. Slides

- D. Videos
- E. Field Trips – on campus or to the University Farms will be used to acquaint students with specific plants and practices

**VII. FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:**

Field experiences related to crops, horticulture, and soils will compliment what is taught in the classroom.

**VIII. RESOURCES:**

Greenhouse and laboratory facilities plus plant materials from campus and at the University Farms.

**IX. GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Attendance will be worth 60 points. There will be four mid-term exams and a final exam, with each exam worth 120 points. A three page research paper will be worth 100 points. Three field tours [crop, horticulture, and soil] will be each worth 25 points. Three labs [crop, horticulture, and soil] will be each worth 55 points. These tours and labs may sometimes require meeting at various times outside of normal classroom times. A summary of the points for each portion is given below:

Attendance	60 pts.
Five exams @ 120 pts.	600 pts.
Research paper	100 pts.
Tours (Crop, Hort., Soil) @ 25 pts	75 pts.
Labs & Report (Crop, Hort., Soil) @55pts	<u>165 pts.</u>
Total	1000 pts.

Grading scale:

- 900 – 1000 pts. = A
- 800 – 899 pts. = B
- 700 – 799 pts. = C
- 600 – 699 pts. = D
- Below 600 pts. = E

Make up policy: Make up exams will NOT be given routinely. If unusual circumstances or illness precludes attendance on the day of an exam, it is the student’s responsibility to discuss the situation with the instructor in order to schedule a new exam. Written reports must be received on time in order for the student to receive full credit. Late work will be lowered by 10% each week it is delinquent. Work will NOT be accepted after three weeks past the due date. Unannounced quizzes cannot be made up.

**X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Please refer to the most current copy of the *Murray State University's Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin*.

**XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

(Adopted by the MSU Board of Regents)

Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers, or the presentation on unacknowledged material as if it were the student's own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

NOTE: The School of Agriculture Faculty have adopted and implemented an Academic Honesty Policy in addition to the University Honesty Policy, which can be found in the current *Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin*. The policy sets guidelines regarding acts of dishonesty and the procedure to follow should an event occur. It is each Agriculture student's responsibility to obtain and read a copy of this document. The School's Academic Honesty Policy can be obtained by asking for a copy from any Agriculture Faculty member or the Secretary.

**XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES:**

Required text: *Hartmann's Plant Science: Growth, Development, and Utilization of Cultivated Plants*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, by M.J. McMahon, A.M. Kofranek, and V.E. Rubatzky.

**XIII. PREREQUISITES:**

None

**XIV. STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:**

Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, age, or disability in employment, admission, or the provision of services, educational programs and activities, and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities. For information regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Office of Equal Opportunity, 270-809-3155.