**HORT 314**

**PRINCIPLES OF TURF MAINTENANCE**

**Fall - 4 CREDITS**

**SYLLABUS**

**Instructor:** Dr. Alec Kowalewski

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**Teaching Assistant:** Clint Mattox, Graduate Assistant, Turfgrass Management

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**Text:** No textbook will be required. Handouts and videos will be posted on Blackboard throughout the term.

**Description:** Identification and adaptation of common turfgrasses. Physiology of turfgrass growth and response to cultural and environmental stresses. Cultural practices including establishment, general maintenance, and pest control. Personal field trips required for various assignments. Course content includes reading assignments, problems, online content, and short essay writing assignments, quizzes and exams for approximately 120 hours of student effort.

**Measurable Leaning Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of turfgrass growth and development.
2. Identify by common name, genus and species major cool season grasses used in general turf areas, and selected warm season turfgrasses.
3. Enumerate the use characteristics of the cool season turfgrasses used in general use situations.
4. Explain and apply practices for successful establishment and renovation of turfgrasses.
5. Explain the principles of soil texture and soil modification used in general turfgrass applications.
6. Comprehend and apply the principles of cool season turfgrass fertilization including: selection of fertilizer materials, fertilizer rate calculation and timing of fertilizer applications.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of basic turfgrass ecology.
8. Explain how mowing equipment, mowing frequency and mowing pattern interact to affect turfgrass quality.
9. Explain the principles of irrigation utilized to optimize turfgrass vigor while conserving valuable water supplies.
10. Diagnose and recommend general approaches for control for common weeds, diseases, and insect pests of turf grass.

**Exams:** All exams (exam 1, 2 and the final) will be proctored. Please see your responsibilities to arrange for an approved proctor under Course Policies below. These exams will be a combination of short answer, multiple choice and matching questions.

**Exam 1** will cover the materials presented in weeks 1, 2, and 3. Exam 1 will be 35 questions worth 100 points total; exam will be 110 minutes, closed note and book. A study guide is available online in the Week 4 folder. The exam will be available at 5:00 am PST, Monday and is due by 5:00 PM PST on Friday of Week 4. Proctor arrangements are necessary.

**Exam 2** will cover the materials presented in weeks 4, 5 and 6. The exam will be 37 questions worth 100 points; the exam will be 110 minutes, closed note and closed book. A study guide is available online in the Week 6 folder. The exam will be available at 5:00 am PST Monday and is due by 5:00 PM PST on Friday of Week 6. Proctor arrangements are necessary.

**Final Exam** will be a compressive exam (covering material provided in lecture notes and reading assignments throughout the duration of the term - weeks 1 through 10). The final is 50 questions worth 100 points total; the exam will be 110 minutes, closed note and book. A study guide is available online in the Finals Week folder. The exam will be available beginning 5:00 am PST Monday and is due by 5:00 PM PST on Friday of Finals Week. Proctor arrangements are necessary.

**Area and Fertilizer Homework:** A take home problem set worth 100 points is available online in Week 8 folder, as well as a surface area and fertilizer calculation practice handout, which should be read prior to initiating the homework. The problem set must be submitted to me via email (mattoxc@onid.oregonstate.edu) by 11:59 pm on the Sunday of Week 8.

**Quizzes:** 5 online quizzes will not be proctored and are worth 10 points each for a total of 50 quiz points. These quizzes will include 10 multiple choice questions covering the material presented that week (lecture notes, assigned reading, supplemental reading and weekly videos). The quizzes will be available for one week only (Sunday 11:59 pm to Sunday 11:59 pm – 7 days), see calendar below.

**Essays:** 5 short essays assignments will be due by 11:59 pm on the Sunday of their respective week, see calendar below. Submit the short essay assignments to me via email (mattoxc@onid.oregonstate.edu) as a PDF or word document. Short essays 1 through 5 are worth 10 points each for a total of 50 points. Short essay answers should be one page (250-300 words). See calendar below for Weeks when essays are due.

**Best Management Plan:** The Best Management Planmust be submitted to me via email (mattoxc@onid.oregonstate.edu) as a PDF or word document by 11:59 pm on the Sunday of Week 10. It is worth 30 points and should be 3 or 4 pages (12 font, double spaced).

**Total Points Possible and Evaluation of Student Performance:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Points Possible** |
| Exam 1 | 100 |
| Exam 2 | 100 |
| Final Exam | 100 |
| Area and Fertilizer Homework | 100 |
| Quizzes (1-5) | 50 |
| Short Essay (1-5) | 50 |
| Best Management Plan | 30 |
| **Total:** | **630** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 567 - 630 points | **A** | 378 – 440 points | **D** |
| 504 – 566 points | **B** | Below 378 points | **F** |
| 441 – 503 points | **C** |  |  |

**Calendar:** HORT 314 Principles of Turfgrass Maintenance.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Weekly Topic** | **Essay Questions****(Due Sunday)** | **Quizzes (Due Sunday) and Exams (Due Friday)** |
| Week 1 | Origins, Benefits and Careers | Short Essay 1 | Quiz 1 |
| Week 2 | Turfgrass Morphology, Growth and Development | Short Essay 2 | Quiz 2 |
| Week 3 | Cool-season Turf | Short Essay 3 | Quiz 3 |
| Week 4 | Warm-season Turf |  | **Exam 1** |
| Week 5 | Turfgrass Establishment |  |  |
| Week 6 | Mowing and Fertilization |  | **Exam 2** |
| Week 7 | Irrigation and Cultivation | Short Essay 4 | Quiz 4 |
| Week 8 | Integrated Pest Management | Short Essay 5 | **Fertilizer Homework** (Due Sunday) |
| Week 9 | Weed and Insect Management |  | Quiz 5 |
| Week 10 | Review for the Final Exam  | **Best Management Plan (Due Sunday)** |  |
|  | Finals Week |  | **Final Exam** |

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Proctored Exams:** This course requires that you take exams under the supervision of an approved proctor. Proctoring guidelines and registration for proctored exams are available online through the Ecampus [testing and proctoring website](http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/proctoring/default.htm). It is important to submit your proctoring request as early as possible to avoid delays.

**Makeup Exams:** Makeup exams will be given only for missed exams excused in advance by the instructor. Excused absences will not be given for airline reservations, routine illness (colds, flu, stomach aches), or other common ailments. Excused absences will generally not be given after the absence has occurred, except under very unusual circumstances.

**Incompletes:** Incomplete (I) grades will be granted only in emergency cases (usually only for a death in the family, major illness or injury, or birth of your child), and if the student has turned in 80% of the points possible (in other words, usually everything but the final paper). If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please don’t wait until the end of the term; let me know right away.

**Communication:** Please post all course-related questions in the General Discussion Forum so that the whole class may benefit from our conversation. Please email your instructor for matters of a personal nature. The instructor will reply to course-related questions and email within 24-48 hours.

**Technical Assistance:** If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the [OSU Computer Helpdesk](http://oregonstate.edu/is/tss/och/) online.

**Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities:**  Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at (541) 737-4098.

**Expectations for Student Conduct;** Student conduct is governed by the university’s policies, as explained in the [Office of Student Conduct: Information and Regulations](http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/home/).

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. For further information, visit [Avoiding Academic Dishonesty](http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/code/index.php#acdis), or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

**OAR 576-015-0020 (2) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty:**

a) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another.

b) It includes:

(i) CHEATING - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids, or an act of deceit by which a Student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment, using prohibited materials and texts, any misuse of an electronic device, or using any deceptive means to gain academic credit.

(ii) FABRICATION - falsification or invention of any information including but not limited to falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.

(iii) ASSISTING - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else by any means, including misuse of an electronic device. It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an educational assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).

(iv) TAMPERING - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments or documents.

(v) PLAGIARISM - representing the words or ideas of another person or presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own, or using one's own previously submitted work. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own.

c) Academic Dishonesty cases are handled initially by the academic units, following the process outlined in the University's Academic Dishonesty Report Form, and will also be referred to SCCS for action under these rules.

**Conduct in this Online Classroom:** Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the [university's regulations regarding civility](http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/regulations/index.php#acdis).

**Tutoring:** [NetTutor](http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/student-services/online-tutoring/) is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your Blackboard class by clicking on the Tools button in your course menu.

**OSU Student Evaluation of Teaching**: Course evaluation results are extremely important and are used to help me improve this course and the learning experience of future students. Results from the 19 multiple choice questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and department heads. Student comments on the open-ended questions are compiled and confidentially forwarded to each instructor, per OSU procedures. The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. You will log in to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.

**Reach Out for Success:**

University students encounter setbacks from time to time. If you encounter difficulties and need assistance, it’s important to reach out. Consider discussing the situation with an instructor or academic advisor. Learn about resources that assist with wellness and academic success at oregonstate.edu/ReachOut. If you are in immediate crisis, please contact the Crisis Text Line by texting OREGON to 741-741 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)