



FUTURE CROPS FOR FLORIDA

HOS4932 - 1 CREDIT

FALL 2018

MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION

Online asynchronous. New lectures and activities go live every Monday at 9:00AM

INSTRUCTOR

Gerardo Nunez

g.nunez@ufl.edu

Fifield Hall 1113

Tuesdays 2:00PM to 4:00PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The horticulture industry in Florida has excelled at developing crops or cultural practices that allow production of a wide range of temperate, tropical, or wild crops. This course will review recent success stories and introduce the domestication, plant breeding, and horticultural technology efforts that will bring about the next generation of Florida crops.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- Identify temperate, tropical, and wild crops that can potentially be grown in Florida.
- Discuss strategies for using wild plants to breed new crops
- Articulate how horticultural technology can be used to grow crops adapted to other regions.
- Explain what factors should be considered when selecting a crop for introduction.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook

There is not a required textbook for this course. All reading materials will be provided via Canvas.

Slideshows

All slideshows used in this class are made available to students. However, these slideshows cannot replace the lecture because they have blank spaces, exercises, diagrams, and flowcharts that you have to

individually complete. Only after you have *interacted* with these slideshows will they become a reference material.

Course website

This course has a comprehensive mini-site in the Canvas platform. Take time to familiarize yourself with the “Start Here”, “Syllabus”, “Course Materials”, and “Grades” tabs in the navigation menu. Digital copies of this syllabus, and other learning materials can be found there.

- *E-Learning in Canvas*, www.elearning.ufl.edu

Technology

Students will need to have access to a personal computer (desktop is fine) to complete the weekly quiz. Additionally, students will need to have access to a video camera to record their Pecha Kucha presentations. Most cellular phone cameras are adequate for this task.

LECTURES AND MAKE-UP POLICY

Lectures will be released every Monday at 9:00 AM. You are expected to watch the lecture within seven days of it going live. All assignments in the course are due on Sunday at 11:59PM.

Late assignments will be graded only for documented emergencies as per UF’s attendance policy.

Additional information about UF’s attendance policy can be found here:

- *Attendance policy*, www.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

COURSE GRADE

1. Weekly quizzes

36 points

Every Monday at 9:00 AM, a 6-question quiz will become available in Canvas. Quizzes will consist of 5 multiple choice questions, and one essay-style question. Each quiz will be worth 3 points, and there will be 13 quizzes during the semester. Each quiz will be timed to 20 minutes, and it can only be taken once. Students can refer to class handouts, personal notes, websites, or any reference materials to complete the quiz. However, each student must work individually. Quizzes will be available until the following Sunday at 11:59PM. Make up quizzes will be provided in accordance with the policy described above. Only your twelve highest quiz scores will be used to compute your quiz average grade.

2. Distant crop case study

44 points

Students will select a distant crop from the provided list. First, you are expected to compile temperature, precipitation, water quality and soil quality information from your county (Site profile). Then, you are expected to survey and summarize scientific and agricultural literature containing botanical, cultural, and genetic information about your crop (Crop profile). Finally, you will utilize the information from your crop profile and site profile to answer the burning question: “*Is this crop viable for my location in Florida?*”.

There will be three partial submissions for this case study (see table below). Additional guidelines and grading rubrics for each submission will be provided via Canvas.

	Assignment opens	Submission due
Site profile	Monday, September 3 rd , 9:00AM	Sunday, September 16 th , midnight
Crop profile	Monday, September 17 th , 9:00AM	Sunday, October 14 th , midnight
Burning question	Monday, October 15 th , 9:00AM	Sunday, November 4 th , midnight

3. PechaKucha presentation

20 points

The objective of this assignment is to utilize scientific facts to create a persuasive narrative for adoption of a new crop. Students will receive written feedback on their answers to the burning question. Then, based on their distant crop case study and this feedback, students will prepare and record a 3 to 5-minute, 1-slide presentation where they introduce their crop and their findings in a persuasive way. Presentations will follow the general recommendations for a PechaKucha talk. Each student will be evaluated by his/her peers (10 points) and the instructor (10 points). Additional guidelines and grading rubrics for each submission will be provided via Canvas.

	Assignment opens	Submission due
Video	Monday, November 12 th , 9:00AM	Sunday, November 25 th , midnight
Peer evaluations	Wednesday, November 28 th , 9:00AM	Sunday, December 2 nd , midnight

GRADING SCALE

A	=	95 - 100 points	C	=	< 77 - 73 points
A-	=	< 95 - 90 points	C-	=	< 73 - 70 points
B+	=	< 90 - 87 points	D+	=	< 70 - 67 points
B	=	< 87 - 83 points	D	=	< 67 - 63 points
B-	=	< 83 - 80 points	D-	=	< 63 - 60 points
C+	=	< 80 - 77 points	E	=	<60 points

Additional information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found here:

- *Grading policy*, www.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

COURSE POLICIES

Written Communication

Effective written communication is essential for student and professional success. Whether you go on to become a horticulturist, an accountant, or a CEO, written communication will be a critical skill in your repertoire. Thus, the instructor places great emphasis on coaching and participating in professional, context-specific written communication.

All course-related email communication should be polite, professional, and as different from a text message as possible. For additional recommendations, consult:

- *Email etiquette*, www.advising.ufl.edu/docs/ProfessionalEtiquette.pdf

In addition to content, all written assignments will be evaluated with respect to proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, word usage, clarity, coherence, and organization. You are encouraged to use the resources provided by the UF Writing Studio to develop or enhance your writing skills. Free one-on-one tutoring (live and on-line) is available to enrolled students.

- *UF Writing Studio*, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138, www.writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.” You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community. Additionally, on all work submitted for credit by students, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior. Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court.

It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor. This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course. Additionally, all work submitted for credit by students will be analyzed with originality-checking software to detect any academic misconduct.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal

penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken when appropriate.

Technical Difficulties

If you are experiencing technical difficulties within Canvas or Mediasite you should immediately contact the UF Help Desk. This will generate a ticket number, which documents the date and time of your technical difficulty. Any requests to make-up late work due to technical difficulties must be accompanied by this ticket number.

- *UF Help Desk*, HUB 132, 392 - 4357, www.lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues.

If you would like to request classroom accommodations, you must first register with the DRC. The DRC will provide you with documentation that you must deliver to the instructor when requesting accommodations.

- *Disability Resource Center*, 0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Campus Helping Resources

If you are experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with your general wellbeing, I encourage you to utilize the university's counseling resources. The UF Counseling and Wellness Center provides a wealth of confidential, free counseling services to enrolled students.

- *Counseling and Wellness Center*, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu
- *U Matter We Care*, www.umatter.ufl.edu

Additionally, if you would like orientation on choosing a major, finding an internship, or planning your career, I encourage you to use the university's on-campus resources.

- *Career Resource Center*, CR-100 Reitz Union, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu

Diversity

The University of Florida and I place great emphasis on affirming the diversity of the student body. Student, faculty, and staff interactions with others from varied backgrounds and experiences foster a superior educational environment and nurture a healthier, more accurate understanding of how our increasingly global and multicultural society operates.

I encourage you to engage in meaningful intra- and inter-culture dialogue and support a climate that is grounded in respect and inclusion for individuals of all of races, ethnic backgrounds, genders, and sexual orientations.

Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of the effort to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, you are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at:

- *Course evaluations*, www.evaluations.ufl.edu

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. You will be notified of the specific times when evaluations for this course are open.

Student Complaints

You can file and resolve any complaints about your experience in this course in the following site:

- *Student complaints in online courses*, www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process

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Week of	Lecture Topics
Aug 22 nd	Week 1: Introduction to the course
Aug 27 th	Week 2: Identifying opportunities
Sep 3 rd	Week 3: Optimum temperatures for vegetative growth
Sep 10 th	Week 4: Optimum temperatures for reproductive growth
Sep 17 th	Week 5: Chilling and dormancy
Sep 24 th	Week 6: Photoperiod
Oct 1 st	Week 7: Precipitation
Oct 8 th	Week 8: Nutritional requirements
Oct 15 th	Week 9: SWOT analysis
Oct 22 nd	Week 10: Locavore movement
Oct 29 th	Week 11: Superfoods
Nov 5 th	Week 12: Crop Domestication
Nov 12 th	Week 13: Wild Crop relatives
Nov 26 th	Week 14: De novo domestication using biotechnology
Dec 3 rd	Week 15: Increasing Biodiversity, Breaching the Glass Ceiling