

Teaching Plan for AGRO/HORT 100 (Introductory Plant Sciences)

Instructor: Ivette Guzman

Semester: Fall 2020

AGRO/HORT 100G Lecture and Laboratory (Introductory Plant Sciences): Introduction to the physical, biological, and chemical principles underlying plant growth and development in managed ecosystems. In the laboratory portion of the class, students perform experiments demonstrating the principles covered in lecture. The course uses economic plants and agriculturally relevant ecosystems to demonstrate basic principles. **(CATALOG DESCRIPTION)**

AGRO/HORT 100G is a four-credit course that meets twice per week for lecture (MW 12:30-1:15 PM). There are 4 lab sections which meet T 10:30-1:00 PM, T 1:30-4:00 PM, W 1:30-4:00 PM, and F 1:30-4:00 PM. The lectures are scheduled to meet in Hardman Jacobs TEAL room (HJLC 228) and the labs in Skeen Hall W138 and W139. We typically have 50 to 75 students in the lecture, and between 9 and 20 students per lab section. I intent to teach the course with a similar content as in prior semesters. The following exceptions will be made for the implementation of safety practices to help prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 in the instructional environment. **(BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PREVIOUS DELIVERY METHOD)**

1. Lectures. Lecture activities and lecture exams will be planned for online dissemination using Zoom. That is, we will not meet in person in Hardman Jacobs. The new online practice will eliminate student presence in the building and its vicinity during our lecture times. Following is my consideration for proposed changes to the online lectures in the event of change in the severity of health threats. **Scenario 1: There are no longer any significant health threats.** My lectures will be held online for the duration of the semester. If the health threats lessen, I do not propose changing from an online format to a physical presence format. **Scenario 2: Significant health threats have emerged during the semester and face-to-face instruction is no longer tenable.** Since I will be teaching the lectures online from the outset, no changes will be necessary to accommodate an increased health threat. **Scenario 3: My class has more than 50 students and health guidelines state that such large gatherings are prohibited.** As of May 8, a total of 23 students have registered for Fall 2020 AGRO/HORT 100, thus this scenario is not applicable, but if more than 50 students enroll by the Fall 2020, I will continue using the online platform.
2. Labs. Discrete instructions will be provided in the syllabus and practiced during the semester, as per CDC guidelines, to prevent COVID-19 transmission during lab meetings. We will meet in person in Skeen W138. These instructions will include 1) self-monitoring using guidelines from the aggie wellness center; 2) 'remaining at home if ill' policy; 3) wearing an approved facemask when on campus if such a directive remains in effect; 4) maintaining six feet social distancing as work duties permit; 5) cleaning and disinfecting countertops, common areas, and shared equipment during and after use; and 6) and practicing frequent hand washing.

To reduce the density of student lab gatherings, enhance social distancing, and minimize face-to-face contact, I will deploy several measures. Firstly, I will change in-person lab meetings to online virtual (Zoom) lab meetings for 10 of the 15 (~67%) semester lab topics devoted to field trips, guest lectures, plant growth and development videos, and self-guided computer assignments each with their own tutorial (due dates TBD).

For the remaining 5 semester lab meetings, I will employ a split-lab procedure, depending on lab topic, in order to effectively reduce student density of the lab section by 50%. Currently the four labs have student enrollment numbers between 1 and 10 students/lab section. The first measure will be to stagger the 2.5-h instructional laboratory sessions at the Skeen greenhouse or Student Research and Education Garden (SREG) sites to accommodate one-half of each lab sections' students at two different times with the teaching assistant. With this measure, I expect no more than 7 students per session at the Skeen greenhouse or SREG where maintaining a minimum of six feet social distancing will be feasible. I will incorporate live streaming so, ultimately, each student will be fully engaged with the lab activities in their entirety. **(PROPOSED CHANGES THAT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED WITH SAFETY AND SCENARIO CHANGES IN MIND)**

3. Office Hours: These will be scheduled and held online through zoom for the professor and the teaching assistants.
4. Contact tracing: For contact tracing, student will immediately notify me if they suspect they are ill (fever in excess of 100.4 degrees F, cough, or shortness of breath), or if they are notified that they may have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Once I learn that a student may have a virus or has been tested as presumptively positive, I will work with the student promptly to isolate them so that they do not transmit it further. I will then work with that student directly to understand who they have come in contact with. Any student who has been infected will be asked about their contacts, and then those contacts are approached. The affected students will call their physician, the NM Department of Health COVID Hotline, or the student health center and, if not already done so, will arrange for a test. In extreme cases, they will call 911. Affected student will return to class only if they have been tested and only after a negative test, or will self-quarantine for 14 days if the test is positive. I will maintain email and telephone of students and their contacts, and keep daily attendance. I will subsequently notify Dr. Rolston St. Hilaire (Department Head) if a student is ill, if positive test results are obtained, and all of the persons with whom the student has had in-person contact. **(PLEASE USE THIS LANGUAGE. ALL PLANS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE CONTACT TRACING INFORMATION)**. For more information on contact tracing, go to

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200504/what-is-contact-tracing-and-how-does-it-work#1>