ORH 3222C
Turfgrass Culture
Course Syllabus for Fall 2025

Instructor:

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Catalog Description: ORH 3222C (4cr) - Turfgrass Culture. *Prereq: BOT 2010C or BSC 2010, CHM 2040.* Comparisons of turfgrasses for their landscape and recreational uses. Growth characteristics, method of propagation, and basic management requirements, including control of important pest problems, are covered.

Course Goals:
In this course, you'll gain essential skills and knowledge to identify, establish, and maintain different types of turf for landscapes and recreational areas. Together, we'll explore how to choose and care for common turfgrasses and understand the science behind these choices. You'll also learn how research connects to real-world turf management, giving you tools to make informed, practical decisions in the field.

Course Expectations:
Success in this course relies on your active engagement and curiosity. Come prepared by reviewing the readings and keeping an open mind. We'll dive into topics that invite different perspectives, so join in our discussions with a willingness to listen, share, and learn from each other. Together, we'll create a respectful and collaborative learning environment where everyone's ideas are valued.

Education is a journey that requires both time and commitment. I understand that each of you has responsibilities outside of this course, and I appreciate the effort you're putting into your studies. Setting aside time for class preparation and assignments each week will help you get the most out of this course. I'm here to support you along the way.

I encourage you to take an active role in your learning, as engagement is key to success in this course. To stay on track, plan to set aside about 5-8 hours each week outside of class for reading, studying, and completing assignments. This course will challenge you, but your enthusiasm and effort will make a big difference. If you're managing other commitments, take a moment to consider if you can dedicate this time to get the most out of the course experience.

In our class discussions, listening attentively and respecting each other's perspectives will create a positive learning environment for everyone. Please keep our discussions focused and relevant, and avoid distractions like unrelated conversations or activities. This way, we all benefit from the opportunity to engage fully with the material and with each other. Let's work together to keep our space respectful and collaborative.

Being in class and actively participating are keys to making the most of our time together. I encourage you to come prepared and ready to engage in the discussions and activities we'll be doing each session. Your presence and involvement not only enrich your own learning but also strengthen our class community.

Course Format:

Lecture:	12:50 - 1:40 M W (1304 Fifield Hall)
Lecture/Lab :	12 :50 – 3:40 F (1304 Fifield Hall/Turfgrass Envirotron)

Recommended Texts:

- Fundamentals of Turfgrass Management 5th Ed., N.E. Christians, Aaron J. Patton, and Quincy D. Law
- The Mathematics of Turfgrass Maintenance, 4th Ed., N.E. Christians and M.L. Agnew
- Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries

Optional Texts:

- Diagnosing Turfgrass Problems: A Practical Guide, Ralph W. White and L.B. McCarty
- Destructive Turf Insects, 2nd Ed., H.D. Niemczyk and D.J. Shetlar
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Course Objectives:

- Recognize and describe the characteristics, growth habits, and adaptations of various warm-season and cool-season turfgrass species used in landscapes and recreational settings.
- Evaluate soil, climate, and site conditions to recommend appropriate turfgrass species that meet functional and aesthetic goals in specific environments.
- Identify common turfgrass health problems, including diseases, pests, and environmental stresses, and develop integrated management solutions.
- Apply best practices in turfgrass maintenance, including irrigation, fertilization, mowing, and pest management, with an emphasis on environmental stewardship and resource conservation.

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM, or by appointment (Zoom/In-person)

Course Website:
We will be using Canvas (elearning.ufl.edu) to communicate relevant course-related material, due dates, etc. You will login with your GatorLink username and password. Students must have an active GatorLink ID to access E-Learning. Should you encounter problems or you cannot remember your GatorLink login information, visit the GatorLink website [http://gatorlink.ufl.edu] or to the UF Computing Help Desk: (352) 392-HELP for assistance.

Find us on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ufturf

Teaching Format:
Guest lectures, videotapes, and PowerPoint™ will be utilized to augment lectures of instructor. Several optional field trips will be conducted to acquaint students with the variety of occupations that are involved in the turfgrass industry. Lecture outlines will be made available in class or via the internet.

Safety:
Some parts of our lab sessions involve fieldwork, which may come with minor risks like sun exposure or insect bites, and, on occasion, a higher level of caution with equipment. Being mindful of safety in these environments is part of building good habits for a career in turf management. Please dress appropriately, stay aware, and let's work together to keep everyone safe and focused on learning.Dress appropriately for lab when necessary (closed toed shoes when operating equipment, etc), wear sunblock, stay hydrated, and be aware of what goes on around you. While we as instructors will make every effort to alert you to safety issues, you are ultimately responsible for your own safety. By enrolling in this course, you are accepting this responsibility.

Professional Behavior:
As we work together to build your skills for a career in turf management, let's all commit to creating a professional, respectful environment. Simple courtesies, like arriving on time and keeping distractions like phones to a minimum, go a long way. If something urgent comes up, just step outside to handle it.

Attendance and Participation
Regular attendance is essential for your success in this course. Class sessions are designed to build on assigned materials through discussion, applied activities, and demonstrations that cannot be fully replicated outside of class.

- **Expectations:** You are expected to attend all scheduled lectures and participate actively.
- **Missed Content:** If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes or materials from a classmate. The instructor will not provide individualized make-up notes or handouts.
- **Assessments:** Make-up quizzes or exams will only be considered in cases of documented extenuating circumstances and must be communicated to the instructor as soon as possible.
- **Applied Learning:** In addition to class attendance, you are expected to spend independent time learning to identify specimens in the greenhouse and other designated areas, as this is a core component of the course.

Examinations:
LECTURE: One (1) mid-term exam and one (1) final exam will be given. The mid-term exam will only cover material presented since the last exam. The final exam ***will be cumulative***, covering all material presented in both lecture and lab. Opportunities for extra credit will be discussed in class.

SCHEDULE:	Exam 1 –	October 11, 2024
	Final Exam –	TBD
	Quizzes –	Quizzes will be given weekly through Canvas

Test Format: Objective type questions requiring short precise answers along with those requiring mathematical calculations will predominate. Multiple choice, matching, and True/False questions will also be given. Application of lecture/laboratory material to realistic situations will be required.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be based on previous lecture and laboratory notes and exercises. There are no make-up quizzes, however you may drop your lowest two quiz grades. Quizzes are designed to keep you on track with the course lectures.

Grading:

Point Distribution:	
Lecture Midterm	**35%**
Lecture Final	**35%**
Lecture Quizzes	**30%**

Scale	
A	94 – 100%
A-	90 – 93%
B+	87 – 89%
B	83 – 86%
B-	80 – 82%
C+	77 – 79%
C	73 – 76%
C-	70 – 72%
D+	67 – 69%
D	63 – 66%
D-	60 – 62%
E	< 60%

Grading Procedure:

- **Grading Timeline:** Exams will be graded and returned within two weeks. Graded exams will be discussed during class, where any questions regarding grading or scores can be addressed.
- **Dispute Resolution:** Any questions regarding the final exam score, total accumulated points, or the assigned letter grade must be resolved **within 72 hours of the final exam** being returned. Grade disputes must be settled before final grades are submitted to the registrar's office.
- **Make-up Exams and Extensions:** Make-up exams are only available under documented extenuating circumstances. Requests for extensions or make-up opportunities must be communicated as soon as possible, ideally before the exam or assignment deadline.

Grading Policy Compliance: All grading policies are consistent with current University of Florida grading standards, which can be reviewed at UF Grading Policies.

Course Policies:

Attendance and Make-Up Policy
Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. Click here to read the university attendance policies.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Grading Policy
Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found here.

Course Evaluation
Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Materials and Supplies Fees
There are no additional fees for this course.

Online Course Communication
For public course-related questions or discussions, please use the course discussion board on Canvas. For private communications, please email the instructor directly using your official UF email address.

Technical Issues
If you encounter technical issues with the course website or related features, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Academic Honesty
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by

the Honor Code." On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services.

A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Campus Resources

Academic Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

Visit https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/topics for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF. Please contact UMatterWeCare for additional and immediate support.

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 as appropriate.

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

· Instructure (Canvas)
    - o Instructure Privacy Policy
    - o Instructure Accessibility
· Zoom
    - o Zoom Privacy Policy
    - o Zoom Accessibility

Course Schedule			
Week	Module/Lecture Videos	Suggested Readings	Graded Work
1	1. Introduction & Scope of the Industry	*Ch 1 pp. 1-6	• Syllabus and Handbook Quiz
	2. Agrostology	*Ch 2 pp. 7-40	• Quiz 1
2	3. Warm Season Grasses	*Ch 4 pp. 75-96	• Quiz 2
	4. Cool Season Grasses	*Ch 3 pp. 41-74	
3	5. Climate (Atmospheric/Edaphic)	*Ch 12 pp. 269-284 PDF files	• Quiz 3
4	6. Establishment	*Ch 6 pp. 111-146 ***Ch 8 pp.115-222	• Quiz 4
5	7. Cultivation/Mowing	*Ch 9 pp. 209-224 *Ch 11 pp. 249-268	• Quiz 5
6	8. Fertilization	*Ch 8 pp. 171-208	• Quiz 6
7	9. Overseeding	*Ch 17 pp. 389-406 *Ch 20 pp 431-454	• Quiz 7
8	10. Irrigation	*Ch 10 pp. 225-248 ***Chapter 7 pp. 107-115	• Quiz 8
9	11. Weeds and Weed Control	*Ch 13 pp. 287-330	• Quiz 9
10	12. Pesticide Management	TBA	• Quiz 10
11	13. -Fertilizer and Pesticide Calculations / Calibration	***MATH BOOK ***Ch4-6 pp. 45-106	• Quiz 11
12	14. Insect Management	*Ch 14 pp. 331-352	• Quiz 12
13	15. Disease Management	*Ch 15 pp. 353-378	• Quiz 13
14	16. Nematode Management	*Ch 14 pp. 331-352	• Quiz 14
15	17. Sod Production	*Ch 18 pp. 407-418	• Quiz 15
16	18. Best Management Practices	****CH 1 & 2 pp. 1-10	• Quiz 16
	Final Exam: TBA		•

*Fundamentals of Turfgrass Management 5th Ed., N.E. Christians
***The Mathematics of Turfgrass Maintenance, 4th Ed., N.E. Christians and M.L. Agnew
****Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries