**Forage Crops - CSS 210 - Spring 2020**

INSTRUCTOR: Steven Skarda CLASS: Will Be Online

PHONE: Do Not leave message LAB: Online videos, worksheets and activities

E-MAIL: skardas@linnbenton.edu Class Website: [MOODLE](https://moodle.linnbenton.edu/course/view.php?id=6128)

**Required Text:** No textbook required. There are articles, videos and worksheets on MOODLE and internet you need to access. You need access to a computer, high speed internet and a printer.

**GOALS:** Emphasizes practices that produce maximum economic returns for land devoted to hay or pasture. Students identify and describe factors contributing to pasture ecosystems, factors effecting forage plant growth and nutritive value, and identify major forage species and weeds that inhabit western pasture. This course also provides an introduction to pasture production and management, forage preservation and utilization. We will use critical thinking, case studies, discussions and other resources to understand the advantages/disadvantages of various management practices. You acquire knowledge of basic forage crops management as currently understood.

**GRADING:** *Tentative class points are as follows*:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Exams/Quizzes (3 at 40 pts each) |  |  | 120 pts | A= 90 – 100%  |
| Activities/homework |   |   |  60 pts | B= 80 – 89  |
| Abstracts (3 at 10 pts each)  |  |  |  30 pts | C= 70 – 79 |
| Final (comprehensive) |  |  | 100 pts | D= 60 – 69 |
|  |  |  | 310 pts | F= 59 or less  |

Quiz and exam material will come from handouts, videos and assigned readings.

**Prerequisite: College level reading and writing skills**

**Student Expectations:**  You are responsible for material covered on-line. Agriculture is the science/ practice of farming, including growing crops and animals to provide food, wool, and other products. Agriculture is the manipulation of biological processes to achieve a defined outcome. The better your understanding of the biological system, the more likely you are to achieve the desired outcome.

**ONLINE CLASS**

Being that this is my first completely online class, and this may be your first online Ag science class we need to be patient, understanding and helpful to each other.

I start with the assumption that you are in this class because you **want to learn**. The material covered in class will be important as you move into your professional program and career. Yes, there are more opportunities to cheat in online courses, but that shows you value a grade more than your dignity, self-respect and future profession. So let us rise to the occasion and be a professional.

Many students hear about online courses and think they sound easy. After all, they involve completing a course in the comfort of one’s own home and on one’s own time. However, online courses are rarely easier than regular classroom courses and [**often require far more discipline and commitment**](https://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2009/11/e-learn.aspx) than offline courses. There is already a lot of reading in college classes. Online classes rely much more on your reading and comprehension skills.

MAKE-UP EXAMS will NOT be given after the scheduled date for an exam except for reasons of illness or emergency beyond the student's control.

**Do NOT ask to “round-up” your grade, consider your “special circumstance(s)” (unless backed by LBCC policies), or offer additional extra credit to boost your grade.** If you are worried about your grade, **be proactive** and come to my office for help.

Simply sending an email does not then make it my responsibility to follow-up with you as the student.

# LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Netiquette: In an online classroom, our primary means of communication is written. The written language has many advantages: more opportunity for reasoned thought, more ability to go in-depth, and more time to think through an issue before posting a comment. However, written communication also has disadvantages, such a lack of the face-to-face signaling that occurs through body language, intonation, facial expressions, and gestures. As a result, please be aware of the possibility of miscommunication and compose your comments in a positive, supportive, and constructive manner.

Course Policies Expectations of students:

* I expect you to keep up with the material covered every week.
* Complete your homework and quizzes on time every week.
* Produce homework and quizzes/exams reflecting your own work and submitted on time.
* Participate actively and courteously in the forums.
* Abide by the standards of academic honesty and student code of conduct.
* Seek help (instructor, homework forums) when you don’t understand a topic.
* Aspire to enjoy learning about forage crops and pasture management!

Expectations of the instructor: You can expect me to;

* Provide comprehensive learning material on time every week.
* Create quizzes and exams that reflect the learning outcomes for the course.
* Show you how important forage crops and pasture management is by using real examples.

### **STUDENT BEHAVIOR**: Although collaboration is important in learning, ultimately each student is responsible for demonstrating individual ability. Cheating on exams and copying homework/lab activity reports will result in a zero for that activity and may result in further disciplinary action. Code of Conduct All participants in the course are bound by the Linn-Benton Community College [**Students' Rights Responsibilities and Conduct**](https://ousearch.omniupdate.com/texis/search/redir.html?query=code+of+conduct&pr=linn-benton&prox=page&rorder=500&rprox=750&rdfreq=500&rwfreq=750&rlead=750&rdepth=31&sufs=0&order=r&bestbet=conduct&groups=Default&u=https%3A//www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/administration-information/policies/students-rights-responsibilities-and-conduct.php)**.**

If you have documented your disability, remember that you must make your request for accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) [**Online Services webpage**](https://cascade.accessiblelearning.com/LBCC/) every term in order to receive accommodations. If you believe you may need accommodations but are not yet registered with CFAR, please visit the [**CFAR Website**](https://www.linnbenton.edu/cfar) for steps on how to apply for services or call **(541) 917-4789**.

CSS 210 Forage Crops Spring 4-3-2020 Tentative schedule of topics

 Assignments and their due date will be posted on MOODLE

WEEK 1 Class intro/expectations. Pasture ecosystem; Biotic vs abiotic factors, soil

April 6 health, photosynthesis, C3 vs C4, plant morphology

WEEK 2 Forage identification, forage types and selection,

April 13

WEEK 3 Pasture establishment and renovation, irrigation, soil testing, fertilization

April 20 **EXAM 1**

WEEK 4 Grazing mgmt, plant growth cycle, response to defoliation, forage quality,

April 27 forage sampling

**Abstract 1**

WEEK 5 Grazing types; MIG (Management Intensive Grazing) & Rotational Grazing

May 4

WEEK 6 Animals/plants Response to Grazing

May 11 ***EXAM 2***

WEEK 7 Pasture/paddock layout, mud management, watering layout, fencing

May 18 **Abstract 2**

WEEK 8 Forage related animal disorders; bloat, laminitis, nitrate poisoning,

May 25 fescue toxicosis, grass tetany, selenium deficiency, alkaloids, prussic

acid poisoning, sweet clover poisoning, hyperkalemia in equine and dairy

***EXAM 3***

WEEK 9 Weed management.

June 1 Internal parasites and grazing management.

**Abstract 3**

WEEK 10 Forage preservation; hay, silage, bailage and stockpiling.

June 8 **Comprehensive** **FINAL EXAM**

Calendar of class activities is tentative and subject to change.