I. **TITLE:**

Interpretation of Agricultural Research

II. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Students will access, analyze, evaluate and interpret agricultural research for occupational work. The course is oriented toward all fields within the agricultural sector.

III. **PURPOSE:**

The objective of the course is to provide the necessary skills to be an effective and critical “consumer” of research conducted and published in the agricultural sector.

IV. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

A. To examine the philosophies of science that are used in agricultural research.
B. To distinguish between descriptive, correlational, qualitative, quasi-experimental, and experimental agricultural research.
C. To describe validity and reliability in agricultural research.
D. To demonstrate sampling and statistical inference in agricultural research.
E. To understand and interpret basic statistical tests.
F. To apply and critically review agricultural research to occupational work.

V. **CONTENT OUTLINE:**

A. Review of Scientific Method
B. Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
C. Statistical Significance Tests and Effect Size
D. USDA, Crop, and Commodity Reports
E. Trends and Surveys
F. Assessment and Evaluation

VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

A. Group activities
B. Critiques of research articles
C. Presentations over applied research

VII. FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:
None

VIII. RESOURCES:
A. Presentation software
B. Professional Journals
C. Library

IX. GRADING PROCEDURES:
In general, the grades in this class are assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>below 59%</td>
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X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Please refer to the most current copy of the Murray State University’s Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:
(Adopted by the MSU Board of Regents)
Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person’s material as one’s own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers, or the presentation on unacknowledged material as if it were the student’s own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

NOTE: The School of Agriculture Faculty have adopted and implemented an Academic Honesty Policy in addition to the University Honesty Policy, which can be found in the current Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin. The policy sets guidelines regarding acts of dishonesty and the procedure to follow should an event occur. It is each Agriculture student’s responsibility to obtain and read a copy of this document. The School’s Academic Honesty...
Policy can be obtained by asking for a copy from any Agriculture Faculty member or the Secretary.

XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES:

No text required

XIII. PREREQUISITES:

None

XIV. STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Sabrina Y. Dial, Director of Equal Opportunity, Murray State University, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071-3318. Telephone: 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).

XV. MSU SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE CELL PHONE POLICY

The School of Agriculture recognizes that in today’s world cell phones are a familiar and often necessary form of communication for students.

It shall be the policy of the School that no cell phone usage shall be allowed in class and/or labs without the prior consent of the course instructor. This shall include verbal calling, incoming calls, email, text messaging, and use of cell phone calculators on tests and quizzes.

Cell phones must be kept off and out of sight (i.e. secured to a person’s belt or kept in a bag or purse away from desks and lab counters).

Should a student’s cell phone be visible, ring, or other form of unauthorized usage that is interruptive to the class or lab, the student may be asked to leave class and not return for that class/lab period.

Upon prior consent of the instructor, a student may obtain permission to have
their phone on in case of an emergency or in critical family situations.

This policy also includes pagers and other electronic equipment such as blackberries and/or computers/laptops.