MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY  
COURSE SYLLABUS OUTLINE  

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE  

COURSE NUMBER: AGR 538  
CREDIT HOURS: 2  

I. TITLE:  
Seminar in Production Agricultural Systems  

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:  
A course designed to enhance the student’s understanding of, and experience in, production agriculture systems and how they relate to a successful farming operation. An emphasis is placed on systems, which have the potential to impact and add value to the local, regional and national agriculture economy, through classroom, as well as, laboratory experiences.  

*To receive graduate credit for this course, a student must be admitted to graduate studies prior to registering for the course.*  

III. PURPOSE:  
To develop and enhance the student’s knowledge and understanding of local and regional Agriculture systems and how they relate to U.S. systems.  

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:  
A. To acquaint students with production agricultural systems.  
B. To develop students understanding of modern Agriculture production systems.  
C. To enable students to visualize the importance of the Agriculture production and a greater understanding of how the major agriculture enterprises effect not only the environment, but also the remaining agriculture industries.  
D. To utilize the production agriculture experiences to develop new and innovative ideas, marketing techniques, and profitable production and processing systems.  
E. To establish contacts and relationships with local agricultural production systems in order to develop understanding of how systems operate.  
F. To allow students to research and report on agriculture production systems.  

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:  
A. Local and Regional agriculture production systems and viewpoints.  
B. United States agricultural production systems.  
C. Grain Crop Operations  
D. Forage Crop Operations
E. Livestock Operations
F. Horticultural Operations
G. Tobacco Production Systems
H. Supplemental Production Agriculture Systems

VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

A. Seminars, classroom guest speakers, field days, and “hands-on” activities.
B. Laboratory Experiences
C. Journal-Students will be expected to keep a professional journal of all class activities, including laboratory activities.
D. Assignments-written/oral presentations

VII. **FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:**

All students are required to participate in a field experience in a local agricultural production system. Students will report their overall investigation of the experience and relay their understanding in written form, as well as, make an oral presentation.

VIII. **RESOURCES:**

A. Journals
B. Magazines
C. Library
D. Internet
E. Regional Agricultural Production Operations

IX. **GRADING PROCEDURES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance at Seminars</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Activities</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation/Written Report</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Reports on 3 Farm Enterprises</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100 %</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-80 %</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79-70 %</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-60</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>E</td>
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</tbody>
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Note: Graduate students will be expected to complete additional assignments. This includes a research report on farm enterprises, including development of an overall farm plan, for an additional 150 points. To receive graduate credit,
students must be admitted to graduate studies prior to registering for the course.

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:**

Please refer to the most current copy of the *Murray State University’s Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin.*

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:**

Selected readings as assigned by the instructor

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.