SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

COURSE NUMBER: AGR 647  CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. TITLE:

Crop Management

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Study of the distribution, economic importance and management of forage, grain and specialty crops. Prerequisite: AGR 240.

*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 competency in crop management. This would include having the students develop a better understanding of the many variables that affect crop productivity and profitability and how these variables can be managed. Studies will include the management of both grain and forage crops.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A. To cover the principles and production practices for the major crops of the region and the U.S.
B. To provide field experiences in the scouting and diagnosis of cultural and pest problems.
C. To develop an appreciation for new research developments as they apply to crop production.

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:

The sequence of crop topics will be adjusted to fit the growing season, the stage of crop development and the weather, so that we may make use of test plots and crops growing on the university farm.

A. Tobacco
   1. Types and uses
   2. Breeding trends
   3. Cultural practices
   4. Pest Control
   5. Marketing
B. Soybeans  
   1. Types and Uses  
   2. Needed breeding improvements  
   3. Cultural practices  
   4. Pest Control  
C. Forage Production  
   1. Management principles  
   2. Species characteristics  
   3. Planning forage mixtures  
   4. Cultural practices  
   5. Forage preservation  
D. Grain Production (corn, wheat, barley, sorghum)  
   1. Types and uses  
   2. Varietal selection  
   3. Cultural practices  
   4. Pest Control  
E. Minor Crops  
   1. Uses  
   2. Adaptation and problems  
   3. General Culture  

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:  
   A. Lecture  
   B. Field experiences  

VII. FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:  
   A. Field trips to area farms.  
   B. Field trips to University farm.  

VIII. RESOURCES:  
   A. Agronomic promotional literature  
   B. Extension publications  
   C. Slides  
   D. Videotapes  
   E. MSU Library  

IX. GRADING PROCEDURES:  
   An online gradebook will be maintained on the class e-study website.  
   Three Regular Exams  
   Crop Management Report  
   Final Exam  
   300 points  
   200 points  
   150 points
Total Possible Points 650 points

Students obtaining the following amounts of total points are guaranteed the following grades:

Grading scale:

- $\geq 585$ A
- $\geq 520$ B
- $\geq 455$ C
- $\geq 390$ D
- $< 390$ E

The instructor reserves the right to lower this scale on a linear basis, as the need arises. Graduating Seniors are expected to take the final along with other students during finals week.

Three mid-semester exams will be given with each being worth 100 points. Points given for graded homework assignments will be considered a portion of the points given for the subsequent class exam. One third of the final exam will be comprehensive and the exam worth 150 points.

Students should tell the instructor when they have to be away from class so that we can plan make-up work. The instructor will try to maintain a reasonable make-up policy for emergency situations by allowing the student to make-up the work. No extra work may be done to raise an individual’s grade.

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:


XIII. PREREQUISITES:

AGR 240 Crop Science

XIV. MODIFICATION:

The syllabus may be modified by the instructor during the semester.

XV. INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. David L. Ferguson  
S-210 Applied Science Building  
Office Phone: 762-6940  
Department Phone: 762-3327  
Email: david.Ferguson@murraystate.edu

XVI. EXPECTED STUDENT BEHAVIORS:

A. Exhibit a positive attitude toward the class.  
B. Come to class prepared for discussion and interaction.  
C. Be cooperative with peers and instructor.  
D. Regular attendance.  
E. Make-up work to be initiated by the student.  
F. Another member of the class picks up handouts and provides notes if class is missed.

XVII. EXPECTED INSTRUCTOR BEHAVIOR:

A. Be fair in all class related activities.  
B. Test questions should reflect material covered in class and assigned reading.  
C. Be patient, keep office hours, be available after class.
D. Understand this class is not the only thing that students are taking.
E. Be sincere—treat students as people—follow the Golden Rule.
F. Keep the class on task—keep it focused on expected competencies.

XVIII. OTHER INFORMATION:

Any change in the syllabus or in the schedule of class activities or meeting will be clearly announced during regular class time. The instructor reserves the right to make any changes in the course, which in his judgment are necessary.

XIX. 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).

XX. CELL PHONE POLICY: Cell phones must be kept on vibrate and out of sight and use (i.e. secured to a person’s belt or kept in a bag or purse away from desks and lab counters). Please refer to the full policy provided on the class e-study site or the MSU agriculture page (www.murraystate.edu/ag).