

## **MS Agronomy: Course requirements & structure**

### **All courses:**

- ★ Discussion topics (DT's), due weekly: Participation in groups – a question is posed every lesson. You are expected to submit an original “thread” (post), read those of your group members, and respond to 2-3 of them each week.
- ★ Lesson Reflections (LR's), due weekly: You are asked to give a summary of your thoughts about lesson objectives, how you learned the lesson materials, and what you felt was covered well and what you did not understand. You will find reflections at the end of EVERY LESSON, EVERY CLASS. It gets redundant, but this is one of the most important ways for students to give feedback on the course materials and it is a great tool for faculty to improve the content of the course.
- ★ Assignments: Differ for each class; some are more homework-intensive than others are.
- ★ Exams: Differ depending on the class.

### **Agronomy 501: Crop Growth & Development**

- ★ DT's due weekly: A lot of class points come from the discussions.
- ★ LR's due weekly: Not graded in this course.
- ★ Assignments: There are 3 individual assignments instead of 3 DT's.
- ★ Exams due weekly: They are application-type questions, so you may use your notes and course materials to formulate your answer.
- ★ No midterm or final exams

### **Agronomy 502: Chemistry, Physics, & Biology of Soils**

- ★ Assignments/LR's: Due weekly unless otherwise noted in the course calendar
- ★ DT's: Due weekly unless otherwise noted in the course calendar
- ★ Exams: 4 take-home exams/lesson reflections
- ★ Case Study: Throughout the course including a final discussion and assignment

### **Agronomy 503: Climate & Crop Growth**

- ★ Assignments: Due weekly
- ★ DT's and LR's due weekly
- ★ Exams: Online midterm and final in Canvas
- ★ Final project at end of class

### **Agronomy 511: Crop Improvement**

- ★ This course does not have any required prerequisites; although, 501, 502, and 503 are recommended courses.
- ★ Genetics is covered in-depth. Students may spend a lot of extra time getting through the material.
- ★ Assignments: Due weekly
- ★ DT's and LR's due weekly
- ★ Exams: Three online exams in Canvas
- ★ One final paper

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### **Agronomy 512: Soil-Plant Environment**

- ★ Assignments: due weekly
- ★ DT's and LR's due weekly
- ★ Exams: Online midterm and final in Canvas
- ★ A presentation project requirement: At various stages, you will select a topic; submit an outline and a PPT presentation. You will also review presentations of other class members.

### **Agronomy 513: Quantitative Methods in Agronomy**

- ★ Assignments: Due weekly – **homework intensive** – you will be learning various statistical analysis using Excel and SAS, downloading a data set and homework problems each week.
- ★ Dr. Harbur holds weekly online office hours (usually on Saturday) to go over homework.
- ★ DT's: Due weekly, but not every lesson
- ★ LR's: Due weekly
- ★ Exams: Online midterm and final in Canvas. Part I is a timed, short answer exam. Part II is a problem and data set much like homework that you will download, work through, and then upload to Canvas. This is also timed.

### **Agronomy 531: Crop Management & Ecology**

- ★ DT's and LR's: due weekly - a lot of class points come from the discussions. Some modules have more than one DT depending on the topic.
- ★ Discussion summaries (DS): Due weekly, a total of 2 DS's per student. You will choose 2 DTs to write a summary (DS) of your group discussions.
- ★ Assignments: There are assignments, but not every lesson
- ★ One major assignment: Crop rotation recommendation paper
- ★ No midterm or final exams.

### **Agronomy 532: Soil Management**

- ★ DT's and LR's due weekly. Many lessons have multiple DT's
- ★ Assignments: There are assignments, but not every lesson
- ★ Exams: Online midterm and final in Canvas

### **Agronomy 544: Host-Pest Interactions**

- ★ This course is offered spring and fall.
- ★ Assignments: Due weekly
- ★ DT's & DS's: Due weekly. Students are split into 4-6 different groups for the DT. At the end of each week, 1 student from each group will complete a DS. Students will rotate throughout the course to complete the DS. Student groups will work together to create the rotation for their group, giving each person a chance to complete the DS.
- ★ LR's: Due weekly
- ★ 3 exams throughout the course (all timed and multiple choice)

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### **Agronomy 591: Agronomic Systems Analysis**

- ★ No EXAMS!
- ★ WRITING INTENSIVE
- ★ Fewer lessons; many papers and multi-step assignments
- ★ DT's are incorporated into assignments

### **Agronomy 592: Current Issues in Agronomy**

- ★ No EXAMS!
- ★ WRITING INTENSIVE
- ★ Fewer lessons; many papers and multi-step assignments
- ★ DT's are incorporated into assignments
- ★ Term project – large written paper

### **Agronomy 594:**

- ★ On-campus practicum
- ★ Prior to arrival: Read a couple articles and react in discussions. Intended to provide context for practicum activities