

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 what you felt the lesson was about, then how you learned the lesson materials, and finally 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's a great tool for faculty to improve the content of the course.
- ★ Assignments: differ for each class, some are more homework intensive than others.
- ★ Exams: will differ depending on the class

Agronomy 501: Crop Growth & Development

- ★ No assignments in this class.
- ★ DT's and LR's due weekly – a lot of class points come from the discussions
- ★ There is one exam question at the end of each lesson, rather than a midterm and final. It is an application-type question so you are allowed notes and course materials to formulate your answer.

Agronomy 502: Chemistry, Physics & Biology of Soils

- ★ Assignments: due weekly
- ★ DT's and LR's due weekly
- ★ Exams: 4 take home exams, none are proctored

Agronomy 503: Climate & Crop Growth

- ★ Assignments: due weekly
- ★ DT's and LR's due weekly
- ★ Exams: online midterm and final in Canvas, you will need a proctor
- ★ Final project at end of class

Agronomy 511: Crop Improvement

- ★ This course does not have any required prerequisites, it does have recommended courses of 501, 502 and 503. That said, the instructor is fantastic to help you if it does happen to be your first class.
- ★ The content of this class has a lot of genetics. Students can find that they spend a lot of extra time getting through the material. Again, Dr. Lee is an exceptional instructor.
- ★ Assignments: due weekly

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- ★ Exams: online midterm and final in Canvas, you will need a proctor

Agronomy 512: Soil-Plant Environment

- ★ Assignments: due weekly
- ★ DT's and LR's due weekly
- ★ Exams: Exams: online midterm and final in Canvas, you will need a proctor
- ★ There is a presentation project requirement. You will be asked at various stages to select a topic, submit an outline, and then a PPT presentation. You will also be asked to critique 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 and goes over homework. These office hours are usually held on Saturday.
- ★ DT's: due weekly, but not every lesson
- ★ LR's: due weekly
- ★ Exams: online midterm and final in Canvas. You do NOT need a proctor. Part I will be a short answer exam that is timed. Part II is a problem and data set much like homework that you will download, work through, and then upload to BBL. This is also timed.

Agronomy 514: Integrated Pest Management

- ★ Assignments: due weekly
- ★ DT's and LR's due weekly
- ★ No exams (exam material is incorporated into assignments)

Agronomy 531: Crop Management & Ecology

- ★ DT's and LR's due weekly
- ★ Assignments: there are assignments but not every lesson
- ★ One major assignment: crop rotation recommendation paper

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, you will need a proctor

Agronomy 533: Crop Protection

- ★ This is the only full-summer course and it is offered summer and fall semesters. During summer semester, class starts two weeks before summer semester officially begins, so usually overlaps the last week of spring semester.

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- ★ DT's and LR's due weekly
- ★ Assignments: there are assignments but not every lesson
- ★ No exams (exam material is incorporated into assignments)

Agronomy 591: Agronomic Systems Analysis

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

Agronomy 592: Current Issues in Agronomy

- ★ No EXAMS!
- ★ WRITING INTENSIVE
- ★ Fewer lessons but 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 2 articles, react to articles in discussions. Intended to provide context for practicum activities
- ★ If you have started CC project, you will be asked to share information about it rather than reading the articles.