

ORH 3222C
Turfgrass Culture
Course Syllabus for Fall 2023

Instructor:

Dr. Jason Kruse
1541 Fifield Hall
Office: (352) 273-4569
Cell: (920) 319-6102
E-mail: jkk@ufl.edu

Catalog Description: ORH 3222C (4cr) - Turfgrass Culture. *Prereq: BOT 2010C or BSC 2010, CHM 2040.* Comparisons of turfgrasses for their landscape and recreational uses. Growth characteristics, method of propagation, and basic management requirements, including control of important pest problems, are covered.

Course Goals:

The primary objectives of this course are to equip students with the knowledge and skills required to comprehend and apply the principles and techniques related to the identification, establishment, and maintenance of turf for various purposes, including functionality, recreation, and aesthetics. We will delve into the characteristics, adaptation, and utilization of common turfgrasses while emphasizing the critical connection between research findings and practical turf management recommendations.

Course Expectations:

To thrive in this course, active engagement with the subject matter is essential. This entails thoroughly reading and digesting assigned materials before class and maintaining an open and receptive mindset throughout the duration of the course. We anticipate and encourage lively discussions on course topics, fostering a sense of community and respect for diverse viewpoints among you and your fellow classmates.

Education is a service-oriented endeavor, unlike conventional commodities. It demands an investment of time and effort in the pursuit of knowledge. We acknowledge and respect students who must prioritize work, family, or other commitments. Nonetheless, to derive maximum benefit from this course and attain a high grade, dedicating time to coursework is imperative.

Students are expected to display an active commitment to their education, involving active participation in the learning process. Allocate a minimum of 5-8 hours per week, apart from class time, for preparation, study, and assignment completion. If your existing commitments prevent you from dedicating this time, enrollment in this course may not be advisable. Be prepared for a challenging academic experience, where your enthusiasm and hard work will be key to your success.

During class discussions, attentive listening while respecting others' opinions is crucial. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Disruptive behaviors include discussing unrelated topics, making provocative remarks, reading materials unrelated to the class, sleeping, playing games, and similar actions. In cases of disruptive behavior, a deduction of 25 points from the final grade may be enforced.

Regular attendance during class sessions is essential for an optimal learning experience. We expect each student to arrive on time, well-prepared, and ready to actively participate in discussions. Your timely presence and active engagement contribute positively to the overall learning environment and will be factored into your graded evaluations.

Course Format:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Lecture: | 12:50 - 1:40 M W (FIF 2318) |
| Lecture/Lab : | 12 :50 – 3 :40 F (PSF 5/Turfgrass Envirotron) |

Required Texts:

- Fundamentals of Turfgrass Management 5th Ed., N.E. Christians, Aaron J. Patton, and Quincy D. Law
- The Mathematics of Turfgrass Maintenance, 4th Ed., N.E. Christians and M.L. Agnew
- [Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries](#)

Optional Texts:

- [Diagnosing Turfgrass Problems: A Practical Guide, Ralph W. White and L.B. McCarty](#)
- Destructive Turf Insects, 2nd Ed., H.D. Niemczyk and D.J. Shetlar

Required Materials:

- A simple calculator for quizzes and tests. No calculators will be available for you to borrow, so it is ESSENTIAL that you acquire your own if you wish to use one. **Cell phone calculators will NOT be allowed on exams and quizzes.**

Office Hours: By Appointment (Zoom/Teams/In-person)

Class Policies:

Turn all cellular phones to silent
Use of ALL tobacco products is prohibited!

Course Website: We will be using Canvas (elearning.ufl.edu) to communicate relevant course-related material, due dates, etc. You will login with your GatorLink username and password. Students must have an active GatorLink ID to access E-Learning. Should you encounter problems or you cannot remember your GatorLink login information, visit the GatorLink website [<http://gatorlink.ufl.edu>] or to the UF Computing Help Desk: (352) 392-HELP for assistance.

Find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ufturf>

Teaching Format: Guest lectures, videotapes, and PowerPoint™ will be utilized to augment lectures of instructor. Several optional field trips will be conducted to acquaint students with the variety of occupations that are involved in the turfgrass industry. Lecture outlines will be made available in class or via the internet.

Safety: A portion of this course and lab entails field work where the opportunity exists that you will be injured. While most potential injuries are minor (insect bites, sunburns, etc), some can potentially be life-threatening, especially regarding maintenance equipment, vehicles, allergic reactions, etc. As students and future landscape professionals, you should realize that these hazards are part of your career and should be taken seriously. Dress appropriately for lab when necessary (closed toed shoes when operating equipment, etc), wear sunblock, stay hydrated, and be aware of what goes on around you. While we as instructors will make every effort to alert you to safety issues, you are ultimately responsible for your own safety. By enrolling in this course, you are accepting this responsibility.

Professional Behavior: This class will prepare you for your profession. Consequently, we expect everyone to behave accordingly. Practice common courtesies. Be on time for class. SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES. This does not mean put it on vibrate and leave it on the table next to you. If you have an emergency for which you must take a call, step outside.

Mandatory Attendance: Students are expected to attend all scheduled lecture classes because attendance is deemed necessary for proper instruction. The instructor assumes no responsibility for providing notes or handouts issued during the student's unexcused absence. No make-up examinations or quizzes will be given except in the case of extenuating circumstances. Furthermore, students are expected to spend time learning to identify specimens on display in the greenhouse and other designated areas.

Examinations:

LECTURE: One (1) mid-term exams and one (1) final exam will be given. The mid-term exam will only cover material presented since the last exam. The final exam **will be cumulative**, covering all material presented in both lecture and lab. Opportunities for extra credit will be discussed in class.

SCHEDULE: Exam 1 – November 3, 2023
Final Exam – TBD
Quizzes – Quizzes will be given weekly through Canvas

Test Format: Objective type questions requiring short precise answers along with those requiring mathematical calculations will predominate. Multiple choice, matching, and True/False questions will also be given. Application of lecture/laboratory material to realistic situations will be required.

Quizzes: Quizzes will consist of 10 questions or less and are based on previous lecture and laboratory notes and exercises. There are no make-up quizzes, however you may drop your lowest two quiz grades. Quizzes are designed to keep you on track with the course lectures.

Grading:

Point Distribution:

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Lecture Midterm | 35% |
| Lecture Final | 35% |
| Lecture Quizzes | 30% |

Scale

| | |
|----|-----------|
| A | 94 – 100% |
| A- | 90 – 93% |
| B+ | 87 – 89% |
| B | 83 – 86% |
| B- | 80 – 82% |
| C+ | 77 – 79% |
| C | 73 – 76% |
| C- | 70 – 72% |
| D+ | 67 – 69% |
| D | 63 – 66% |
| D- | 60 – 62% |
| E | < 60% |

Grading Procedure: Exams will be graded and returned as rapidly as feasible. Exams will be discussed in class and any questions regarding grading will be resolved at that time. All exams will be returned to the instructor and the grades will be recorded. The exam **MUST** be returned to be recorded. Exams not returned will receive a "0." All questions regarding scoring of the final exam, total grade points accumulated, and letter grade assigned should be resolved prior to the time grade sheets are due to the registrars office.

Course Policies:

Attendance and Make-up Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

- *UF Attendance policy*, <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Zoom Etiquette

Students are expected to be respectful learners. As such, you should arrive to and leave from class on time. Your camera must be turned on for the duration of our class, but your microphone can be muted. You should be ready to answer questions using your microphone. The chat feature must be used exclusively for course-related communication. Links and files should be shared and transferred using Canvas and email as appropriate (Zoom is not an acceptable method for assignment submission).

Challenging a Grade

All discrepancies in grading must be resolved within 7 days of the grade being posted in canvas. The instructor's memory is frail. Thus, grade disputes older than 7 days old will not be entertained unless proper excuse is provided (see attendance policy).

Written Communication

Effective written communication is essential for student and professional success. Whether you go on to become a horticulturist, an accountant, or a CEO, written communication will be a critical skill in your toolbox. Thus, I place great emphasis on coaching and participating in professional, context-specific written communication. Proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation are expected in all course assignments. You are encouraged to use the resources provided by the UF Writing Studio to develop or enhance your writing skills. Free one-on-one tutoring (live and on-line) is available to enrolled students.

- *UF Writing Studio*, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138, www.writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Email

Email will be the main means of communication between us. Hence, it is critical that all course-related emails are polite, professional, and as different from a text message as possible. You must use your Gator Link email. Canvas messages will not be answered. I will reply to all emails within 2 business days of receiving them. For additional recommendations, consult:

- *Email etiquette*, <https://www.inc.com/business-insider/email-etiquette-rules.html>

Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action.

- For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see:
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken when appropriate.

Services for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

- *Disability Resource Center*, 0001 Reid Hall, (352) 392-8565, www.disability.ufl.edu

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *Counseling and Wellness Center*, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu
 - Counseling Services
 - Groups and Workshops
 - Outreach and Consultation
 - Self-Help Library
 - Wellness Coaching
- *U Matter We Care*, www.umatter.ufl.edu
- *Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)*, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- *University Police Department*, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), www.police.ufl.edu

Additionally, if you would like orientation on choosing a major, finding an internship, or planning your career, I encourage you to use the university's on-campus resources.

- *Career Resource Center*, CR-100 Reitz Union, 392-1601, www.career.ufl.edu

Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at:

- www.gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/

Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at:

- www.gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/

Student Complaints

You can file and resolve any complaints about your experience in this course in the following site:

- *Student complaints in online courses*, www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process

In-class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.