

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE
SYLLABUS

PLS 160 INTRODUCTION TO SOUTHWESTERN ALTERNATIVE CROPS

Credit Hours: 3 Lec 3

PREREQUISITE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to non-vegetable crops grown in the Desert Southwest (i.e. tree crops, alfalfa, cotton, sugar beets, small grains, dates, etc.). The history, introduction, production, and economic impact of the crops will be discussed.

1. COURSE GOALS

- 1.1 Identify agronomic important crops in the southwest.
- 1.2 Determine the economic importance of the alternative crops grown in the southwest.
- 1.3 Identify the history and uses of southwest alternative crops and their impact on agronomic practices.

2. OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 2.1 identify commercially important non-vegetable crops to the Desert Southwest.
- 2.2 discuss the history of each crop and their introduction to the southwest.
- 2.3 evaluate production methods employed by growers to generate a successful yield.
- 2.4 identify harvesting techniques used for these crops.
- 2.5 discuss the impact of mechanical engineering on the future of harvesting methods.
- 2.6 identify marketing techniques for these crops.
- 2.7 recognize the importance of these crops on soil health.
- 2.8 identify common pests and the negative effects on the final commodity.

3. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- 3.1 Lecture and PowerPoint presentations
- 3.2 Field work and trips
- 3.3 Class discussions
- 3.4 Guest speakers, as appropriate

4. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 4.1 Reading assignments
- 4.2 Field trips to local businesses and laboratories
- 4.3 Internet explorations and activities \ videos
- 4.4 Research analysis and critical thinking scenarios
- 4.5 Homework assignments

5. EVALUATION

- 5.1 Exams and quizzes
- 5.2 Participation
- 5.3 Written assignments

6. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
- 6.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the

45th day of the course will be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.

- 6.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through Access ABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
- 6.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor’s signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC’s Student Code of Conduct.
- 6.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.
- 6.6 Complete all assignments on the dates due.
- 6.7 Participate in class discussions and activities.
- 6.8 Take all quizzes and exams on date scheduled.
- 6.9 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for “No Show” reporting during the first 10 days of each semester. Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a “No Show” (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of “NS” on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid. For online classes, *student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):
- Submitting an academic assignment
 - Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
 - Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
 - Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
 - Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course