PLSC 151, INTRODUCTION TO CROP SCIENCE

2019 SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Bruce L. Vasilas, Professor
Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
University of Delaware
138 Townsend Hall
831-1391, bvasilas@udel.edu
Office hours by appointment

LECTURES: TR 9:30-10:45, FGL 103

TEXTBOOK: None required

TOPICS

1. Agroecosystems and Agroecology
2. Agricultural history in the Mid-Atlantic Region
3. World food production
4. Basic Plant Science
   a. Anatomy
   b. Morphology
   c. Growth and development
   d. Seeds
5. Crop identification
6. Environmental factors & plant responses
   a. Light
   b. Temperature
   c. Water
   d. Soil
7. Taxonomy
8. Diversity (or lack thereof) in major agronomic crops
9. Grain crops
10. Pulse & oil crops
11. Forage crops & forage production
12. Miscellaneous crops
13. Regional distribution of crops-environmental & socioeconomic factors
14. Crop production basics
**GRADING:** Grades will be based on two hour exams (100 pts. ea.), a final exam (100 pts.), and three quizzes (20 pts ea.). Exams are not cumulative. The instructor reserves the right to consider classroom participation in borderline grades.

**EXAM SCHEDULE**

1. 
2. 
3. Final

**QUIZ SCHEDULE**

1. Legume identification
2. Grass identification
3. Binomial names

**EXPECTATIONS BY THE INSTRUCTOR AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENTS:**

1. Classroom attendance by the students is expected.
2. Tardiness for lectures is not acceptable.
3. Exams will not be presented to a student after 15 minutes into the exam period. A student arriving after the 15 minute interval forfeits the opportunity to take the exam and will receive an exam grade equal to zero points.
4. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic grade equal to zero points.
5. Each handout will be presented only once.
6. Poor handwriting on exams which causes ambiguity will result in a forfeiture of points.
7. E-mail is not a substitute for classroom attendance. The instructor is not compelled to respond to e-mails.
8. Phones must be turned off and out of sight.