Turfgrass Management
(4.0 credits)

 Normally Offered: Fall every year. By Dr. William Meyer and Dr. Josh Honig.

Pre-requisites and other registration restrictions:
The course has no pre-requisites; however, students will benefit by taking introductory soil, water, plant science courses.

Format: Two 80-minute lectures plus 3-hour laboratory

Description:
This is an introductory turfgrass management course that fulfills the elective portion of the SEBS Plant Science requirements. It is strongly suggested for those seeking career opportunities in the science and management of turf landscapes including lawns, gardens, parks, roadsides, cemeteries, athletic fields, golf courses, etc. as well as the commercial supplies industry associated with turf and landscape management.

The course introduces students to the identification and management of grasses used for turf. The course uses lecture, hands-on field laboratory experience, and field trips to teach principles of turf establishment, renovation, and management. Emphasis is placed on genetic, cultural, physical, biological, and regulatory approaches to turf management rather than a chemical approach.

Learning Goals:
- Be able to identify the major species of cool-season and warm-season turfgrasses used in managed landscapes and where to use them
- Understand the major cultural practices of mowing, irrigation and fertilization for turfgrasses, and the supplementary cultural practices of cultivation, topdressing, rolling, use of wetting agents and use of plant growth regulators
- Be able to discuss methods for the identification and proper control of turfgrass diseases, insects and weeds
- Understand the cultural/management systems for golf courses, sports fields, lawns, and other managed turfgrass landscapes
Measures of Assessment:
- 2 hourly exams (based on lecture)
- Comprehensive final exam (based on lecture)
- Turfgrass Identification Practical exam (based on lab)
- Various written assignments (based on lecture and lab)
- Attendance

Course Website:
Sakai

Topics:
- Introduction to Turfgrass Management
- Turfgrass Identification and Uses
- Primary Cultural Practices (Mowing, Fertilization, and Irrigation)
- Supplemental Cultural Practices (Cultivation, PGRs, etc.)
- Turfgrass Pest Management (Diseases, Insects, Weeds, other pests)
- Cultural Systems (Lawns, Athletic Fields, Golf Courses, etc.)

Required and Recommended Course materials:
Turfgrass Management by A.J. Turgeon (9th edition)


Policies for Exams, Assignments, Attendance, and Grading
66.6% of final grade based on lecture (2 hourly exams, 1 final exam, written assignments, attendance)
33.3% of final grade based on laboratory (Turfgrass ID practical exam, written assignments, attendance)

Attendance is required for lecture and laboratory – each absence greater than 2 unexcused absences will result in 5% points reduction in final grade

Other Information:
Students written assignments will be typed answers to the questions at the end of each chapter of the textbook. Due dates for handing in these chapter questions are indicated as "QUESTIONS DUE" on the course calendar handout. These written assignments are given to encourage students to read the chapters in the textbook prior to attending lecture. - In many instances the textbook will serve as background information to material that will be covered in greater detail during the lecture period; therefore students should be familiar with the textbook topic prior to attending class.
Lecture Format: Lectures are twice a week for 80-minute class periods. Lectures are based on the topics outlined on the lecture syllabus, and generally follow the format of the accompanying textbook. Please note that the textbook provides introductory background information, while lecture material (outlines, handouts, slides etc) will provide greater detail on specific subjects. Students are encouraged to read the chapters that correspond to the lecture outline prior to attending lecture periods (Textbook chapters that correspond to the lecture material are indicated on the course calendar handout).

Laboratory Format: The laboratory section meets once a week for a 3-hour period. The laboratory section meets at Horticultural Research Farm II, in the Geiger classroom building, located off of Ryders Lane (please see campus map for directions). Additionally, all field trips will depart from Hort. Farm II. The laboratory section will be a combination of "hands-on" laboratory exercises, field trips, guest lectures and the possibility of overflow lecture material from the lecture section.

As mentioned previously, this course is the introductory turfgrass management course. Students intending to pursue turfgrass management/science as a career should be aware that there are three additional courses offered by the Plant Science Department that deal with various aspects of turfgrass management/science in greater detail. It is strongly recommended that students interested in a career in turfgrass management/science make every effort to take 11:776:451 Fine and Sports Turf Management, 11:776:408 Turfgrass Pest Science, 11:776:404 - Soil Management for Sports Fields.