



NORTHEAST TEXAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

focused

SMALL FARMING

HALT 2321

Course Syllabus

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Small Farming HALT 2321 Spring, 2019 8 wk hybrid

Mrs. Rene' McCracken
Director of Agriculture, Instructor
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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	8 to 10 am	8 to 10 am	8 to 10 am	8 to 10 am	9 to noon	Various

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Course Description:

This course includes a study and application of production techniques and best management practices for goods produced on small farms including: vegetables, grasses, flowers, herbs, grains, meat and dairy animals. Production of goods on NTCC Sustainable Market farm unit will promote learning of techniques. The course utilizes greenhouse, actual lab time in a twelve acre garden, farm safety, and farm equipment including the learning of properly using tractors and implements in the production of small farm products. Lecture/Lab/Clinical: Two hours of lecture and two hours of lab each week. (Spring)

No assigned text. The exams and assignments will be taken from class PowerPoint's, workbooks and class notes:

Textbooks (all will be made available through blackboard):

Reference Text (not required to purchase): ***Building a Backyard Homestead***

Course Goals:

This course is designed to provide students in agriculture an opportunity to learn, plan and to manage the components of the NTCC Sustainable Market Farm unit including: livestock, pasture, soil, facilities, marketing, financing and equipment. The NTCC Sustainable Market Farm will be utilized to apply garden design developed in class through group projects and assignments. In addition, this semester students will select and help to coordinate the purchase of and manage a small egg layer flock, and meat goat production does.

Course Objectives:

The student should be able to:

- Define the typical components of a small farm and describe the origins of.
- List the best management practices utilized on small farm to produce vegetables, livestock and manage the natural resources as it relates to Food Safety and Animal Welfare.
- List basic tools and equipment required to operation a small farm and demonstrate their use.
- List sites and organizations that deliver resources for small farms.
- Develop and illustrate a garden and farm plan for a spring garden on NTCC Sustainable Market farm.

- Utilize good agriculture practices or GAP's to plant, fertilize, and control pests and weeds for NTCC Sustainable Market Farm.
- Develop and coordinate farmer's market booth at the NTCC student Farmers Market and properly price, display and sell farm items.

Grading:

Grades will be computed as follows:

(2) Exams:	50%
(2) Assignments – Case Studies	20%
Class Participation:	30%

The grading scale below will be used to determine your final grade.

Points	Grade
90-100	A
80- 89	B
70- 79	C
60- 69	D
BELOW 59%	F

Exams:

There will be 2 exams accounting for 50% of your overall grade. Exams will be multiple choice and essay developed from classroom PowerPoint presentations, discussion and workbook. Review quizzes will be provided each week with exams occurring as materials are covered.

Assignments:

There will be at least two case study assignments on area sustainable agriculture farm businesses. Students will be expected to complete a case study and each will be graded on content and grammar. Case studies will account for 20% of student's overall grade.

Class Participation:

Class participation is based on attendance, classroom discussion, and participation and will account for 30% of the students overall grade. Class attendance is required. If you have more than three unexcused absences, you should consult with me about your grade. Anyone who wishes to withdraw from class must take the responsibility to formally drop with the Registrar; otherwise a failing grade will be given.

Small Farm Project:

Each student will utilize the knowledge gained in the class to apply organic gardening principles in the NTCC garden area, utilizing raised beds, grape vineyard and other garden areas as assigned. Additional projects include: pastured poultry egg production, and meat goat production herd. The project grade will be based on effort, participation and proper application of learned best management skills. This project will be counted as your final for the course.

ADA Statement

It is the policy of Northeast Texas Community College to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to

afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange an appointment with a College counselor to obtain a Request for Accommodations form. For more information, please refer to the Northeast Texas Community College Catalog or Student Handbook.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

“Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. **NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook.**”

Course Outline:

- Week 1 Starting and planning a small farm. Evaluation of resources, financial management, and evaluation and acquiring resources
- Week 2 Introduction, coordination, selection and planning the home vegetable and herb garden
Planting, management and production of garden vegetables and herbs
- Week 3 Farm marketing and selection for a profit
Backyard Fruits, Nut, Hops Production,
EXAM 1
- Week 4 Growing your own grains
Meat and Dairy Production on the small farm
- Week 5 Poultry – small flock, pastured production
Meat Goat Production
EXAM 2
- Week 6 Agri-tourism and the farm: coordinating and management of corn maze and pumpkin patch.
Farmers market coordination and implementation
- Week 7 Harvest and preservation and marketing of small farm goods
Project Presentations
- Week 8 Review and testing (Optional Final)

Assignment #1

Open, review and print out this page of the syllabus for Soil Science.
Turn in this page for your first assignment grade.
Deadline to turn in will be the second full class day.

Student Name: _____

Major: _____

Purpose for taking this course:

Aspect you enjoy most about agriculture and farming?

Open and review the syllabus for soil science. Print out this page and complete and sign it to turn in the first class day. This will be your first assignment grade.

YES - I have reviewed the course syllabus and agree to the terms laid out in it.

Student name and ID

Date