



NORTHEAST TEXAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

focused

SMALL FARMING

HALT 2321

Course Syllabus

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Small Farming HALT 2321

Fall, 2017

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 farm will promote learning of techniques in Integrated Pest Management; Organic production; Laying out of crops; Soil Science; Agronomy; Small Farm Animal Production; and Small Farm Business Planning. The course utilizes greenhouse, actual lab time in a five 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 three hours of lab each week. **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 to plan and to manage the components of a small farm including: livestock, pasture, soil, facilities, marketing, financing and equipment. The NTCC Farm gardens and greenhouse 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.

General Course Requirements:

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.

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am to 9 am and Friday 8 am to noon.

Appointments with me may be scheduled at other times. Call for an appointment at (903) 434-8267, Office AGC 117. E-mail address: rmccracken@ntcc.edu

Course Objectives:

The student should be able to:

- Define the typical components of a small farm and describe the origins of
- Have a general knowledge of best management practices utilized on small farm to produce vegetables, livestock and manage the natural resources.
- Have a general knowledge of tools and equipment utilized in operation of a small farm
- Discover a working knowledge of locating small farm materials and resources
- Develop a garden and farm plan, select organic seed and plants, for a spring garden on NTCC farm.
- Utilize organic practices/methods to plant, fertilize, and control pests and weeds for NTCC organic garden and livestock.
- Develop and implement organic methods to harvest, preserve and market NTCC organic vegetables and herbs.
- 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.

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
- Week 3 Planting, management and production of garden vegetables and herbs
- Week 4 Farm marketing and selection for a profit
- Week 5 Backyard Fruits, Nut, Hops Production,
EXAM 1
- Week 6 Growing your own grains
- Week 7-8 Meat and Dairy Production on the small farm
- Week 9-10 Poultry – small flock, pastured production
- Week 11-12 Meat Goat Production
EXAM 2
- Week 13 Agri-tourism and the farm: coordinating and management of corn maze and pumpkin patch.
- Week 14 Farmers market coordination and implementation
- Week 15 Harvest and preservation and marketing of small farm goods
Project Presentations
- Week 16 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