Instructor: Dr. Jonathan H. Crane, Tropical Fruit Crop Specialist

Dates: Monday, June 27th, 2016 to Friday, August 5, 2016 (class is Mon. through Fri.)

Location: Tropical Research and Education Center
18905 S.W. 280 St.
Homestead, FL 33031-3314
Tel: (786) 217-9271; Fax: (305) 246-7003
Email (Dr. Crane): jhcr@ufl.edu

Target audience: This course offers graduate students, scientists, extension faculty, and other professionals (including experienced producers) an opportunity to increase their knowledge of tropical fruit crop horticulture and plant physiology.

Class: Class begins at 8:30 AM each day. Lecture is usually until 12:00 PM (noon) and then we break for lunch from 12:00 PM (noon) to 1:00 PM or 1:30 PM. In the afternoons after lunch we are generally in the field up to 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM depending upon what is happening and the distance traveled.

The class will take two trips to other production areas, one with an overnight stay and one slightly long day. Students will be more comfortable in the field if they wear comfortable shoes or sneakers and a hat. You may want to bring water too. Sunscreen is always a good idea as is bug spray on some occasions.

Objectives of the class:
1. To emphasize horticultural practices of commercial tropical fruit crop management in Florida, the applied aspects of research, and explore the physiological basis for horticultural practices used in crop production of: avocado, mango, carambola, banana, papaya, pitaya, lychee, longan, mamey sapote, passion fruit, atemoya, sugar apple, guava and others.
2. To expose students to various aspects of fruit production from other tropical areas of the world through presentations.
3. To expose students to production practices through field visits to working orchards, nurseries, packinghouses, botanical gardens, and research/education institutions. Guest lectures will be offered in tissue culture, biotechnology, insect and disease management, genetics and plant breeding, hydrology, agricultural economics, and postharvest handling.
4. To have students understand and be able to apply the principles, concepts, and information from the class to their own situations in production, research, and teaching.

Methods for teaching:
- Formal lecture, as well as, informal open discussion and questioning.
- Reading of books and papers, slides, videos.
- Field visits to interact with production managers, orchardists, researchers, and extension faculty.
- One or two assignments may be used to demonstrate useful production and research concepts.

Required course texts:


* I will have these at the class. These may be purchased the first several days of class by money order or check. (Option – buy via the Internet ahead of time).

Optional texts: These texts are not required; may be of interest and students are responsible for ordering them. They may be available locally at several bookshops or through the Internet.


Numerous handouts will also be provided. Daily reading is expected from texts and handouts on pertinent class subjects.

Course attendance:
Students are expected to attend every day of class. Special arrangements may be made ahead of time for specific problems and reasons.

Exams: There are three to four exams. Exams are not cumulative with respect to the crop species but is expected that concepts and strategies that are applied throughout the course are fair game for exams. Exams usually last 1-2 hours. The final grade is an average of all exams and student presentations. If you miss an exam, make-up exams will be offered. Test questions on exams consist of primarily short answer and essay.

Grading scale - https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

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Academic honesty statement: I (the student) understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.

Students with disabilities
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

The weekly schedule of lectures and field visits will be finalized prior to the start of the course.

UF counseling services: Resources are available on the main campus in Gainesville for students with physical and mental medical issues. These resources include - 1) Univ. Counseling & Wellness Center, (352) 392-1575 (http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc), personal and career counseling; 2) GatorWell, (352) 273-4450 (http://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/); 3) Sexual Assault Recovery Services, (352) 392-1161 (http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/); 4) Univ. of Fla. Office of Victim Services (352) 392-5648/352-392-1111 (http://www.police.ufl.edu/victim-services/) and 5) Career Resource Center, (352) 392-1601 (http://www.crc.ufl.edu/), career counseling. They can all be reached by Internet at http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/

Instructors office hours: At my office (Bldg. 8223, Rm. 2; phone, 786-217-9271), Monday through Friday before class (7:30 AM to 8:15 AM) and after class (usually after 4:00 PM). Saturdays and Sundays please call my cellphone at 786-255-5878.

Health care: Students are advised that no University health-care services are available in Homestead. Students needing medical care must obtain it from private sources and pay for it themselves or by private insurance.

Online course evaluation: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

Accommodations and Transportation
Students must arrange their own transportation to and from Homestead, Florida at the beginning and end of the course. If there is space, registered, degree-seeking UF students may stay on the TREC campus in student housing. Unfortunately, no rooms will be available for non-UF students. There are many motels in the Homestead area, with a wide range in prices. To view, web-search 'hotels homestead
florida’ or ‘hotels florida city florida’. You may wish to share a room with another student - those arrangements can be made during the first day of class. An arrangement has been made for a reduced accommodations rate with the Everglades International Hostel (http://www.evergladeshostel.com/) in Florida City - not too far from TREC. The proprietor will offer rooms at a discount rate with every 5th night free to students taking the course. In order to get this rate, you must contact the hostel directly the course. The email address is info@evergladeshostel.com and the phone number is 1-800-372-3874 or 305-248-1122 and fax 305-245-7622.
Transport to and from your local hotel or the hostel will be provided. Please contact me if you will be staying at the hostel or a local hotel.

ALL STUDENTS - FRONT OFFICE POLICY
The Administration Building is generally off limits to the students. This is because the office staff is very busy serving the needs of the faculty at TREC. Those students who may need to make a phone call and/or send/receive a fax please speak with Dr. Crane. You must pay for long distance phone calls by calling card. The photocopying machine is not for student use.

MAIL Students may receive mail at TREC. However, Dr. Crane will pick up the mail from the front office for distribution. Dr. Crane will also be glad to have mail forwarded (you pay postage) from the front office.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COMPLAINTS POLICY
The University of Florida believes strongly in the ability of students to express concerns regarding their experiences at the University. The University encourages its students who wish to file a written complaint to submit that complaint directly to the department that manages that policy.
A student who is unsure as to the official responsible for handling his or her particular complaint may contact the Ombuds office or the Dean of Students Office. For complaints that are not satisfactorily resolved at the department level or which seem to be broader than one department, students are encouraged to submit those complaints to one of the following locations:
Ombuds: http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu/
31 Tigert Hall, 352-392-1308
The purpose of the Ombuds office is to assist students in resolving problems and conflicts that arise in the course of interacting with the University of Florida. By considering problems in an unbiased way, the Ombuds works to achieve a fair resolution and works to protect the rights of all parties involved.
Dean of Students Office: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/
202 Peabody Hall, 352-392-1261
The Dean of Students Office works with students, faculty, and families to address a broad range of complaints either through directly assisting the student involved to resolve the issue, working with the student to contact the appropriate personnel, or referring the student to resources or offices that can directly address the issue. Follow up is provided to the student until the situation is resolved.
Additionally, the University of Florida regulations provide a procedure for filing a formal grievance in Regulation 4.012: http://regulations.ufl.edu/regulations/uf-4-student-affairs/