

ANSI 4863

Capstone for Animal Agriculture

Instructor: Deb VanOverbeke (Spring Semesters) Brad Morgan (Fall Semesters)
104 Animal Science

Prerequisites: Senior standing in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, primary interest in Animal Agriculture

Course Structure: 2 class periods/week (MW 10:30-11:20, 124 ANSI)
1 lab period/week (W 1:30, 125 ANSI; W 3:30, 125 ANSI; F 10:30, 124 ANSI)

Course Objectives:

1. Examine the place of Animal Agriculture in society
2. Explore researchable questions that pertain to Animal Agriculture
3. Evaluate competing viewpoints concerning issues where the interests of Animal Agriculture and society interact.
4. Develop skills that will enable students to assume positions of leadership

Text: No formal text is required. Students can obtain handouts, which are current and relevant to topics discussed in class, from the class website.

Evaluation:

Laboratory Assignments	20%
Papers from speakers and lectures	15%
Individual Presentation	
Oral Report	15%
Written Report	15%
Group Presentation	
Presentation	15%
Paper	15%
Discussant participation	5%

Participation/Attendance – An adjustment to your final grade will be made to account for attendance or lack thereof as indicated below.

Unexcused failure to give the individual presentation on schedule, take part in the group presentation or to turn in the papers will result in a grade of "F".

Laboratory Assignments:

Assignments will be distributed in laboratory and lecture during the first eight weeks of class. These assignments will be generally due in one week or at the next laboratory meeting.

Outside Speaker & Lecture Write Ups:

A). Students will prepare a one-page (typed, single-spaced, 3/4 inch margins, 12 point font) write up on at least five guest speakers. Two of the speakers can include a **guest speaker from the class and the remaining speakers need to be from outside seminars**. Each of these will receive a grade of 1 to 10. The grade will be based on the content, the format and the structure of the essay. Grades will be discounted by two points for not following proper format as identified above.

List of outside seminars, dates, and times will be posted. Professional conduct including dress, attention, respect, etc is required for outside and guest speakers as well as for all seminars/lectures.

B). Students will prepare a one-page (typed, single-spaced, 3/4 inch margins, 12 point font) write up on at least **four** of the lectures presented in class. Each of these will receive a grade of 1 to 10. The grade will be based on the content, the format and the structure of the essay. Grades will be discounted by two points for not following proper format as identified above.

Individual Presentation:

One of the goals of a Capstone Course, as defined by Oklahoma State University, is that each student should be encouraged to "ask their own questions, to seek answers to those questions in coherent and engaging prose, to make their answers plausible to textual evidence and to write papers of authoritative originality". To meet this requirement each student will be required to pose a question that can be answered using available information in the research literature. Each student must address a different question. Each question should be narrow enough that the entire body of literature that specifically addresses the question is contained in five to ten research projects. For example, the question "Does crossbreeding work?" would be much too broad. There are hundreds of research papers that discuss some aspect of crossbreeding. However, the question "what is the place of the Gelbvieh breed in a commercial cow herd?" would be appropriate since that particular breed has been used in a fairly small number of research projects. The information base for the individual presentation should be found primarily in papers in refereed journals (you will learn in lab how to determine if an article is in a refereed journal); however, popular press information from the web or in hard copy may be

used as well. ***At least six references must be used to answer your question and at least one half of the cited papers should be from refereed journals.*** Experiment station research reports can also be a good source of information but should not take the place of a refereed journal article and do not count as a refereed article. The most recent paper in the citation list should have been published less than two years prior to the beginning of the semester.

A 13 minute oral presentation will be given to the class. There should be 10 minutes devoted to the text of the presentation with 3 minutes remaining for questions. In addition, a paper (five pages, typed, double-spaced, 3/4 inch margins, 12 point font) must be written. The topics for the individual presentations must be approved by the instructor. The oral report will be graded on: technical merit (35%), proper use of time (10%) and citations (5%), use of visual aids (25%), proper attire and body language (10%) and response to questions (15%). The written report will be due one week after the presentation. Both the paper and presentation will be graded out of 100 points.

Group Debate:

Each group (3-4 students) will identify their top four topics from the list provided or may consult the instructor about an alternative topic. Once all groups have turned in their top four topics, two groups will be paired together for a group debate on the issue. The debate will be during the laboratory-discussion periods so that no more than two groups within a laboratory section will debate the same topic. Each group will be presented with the stance (for or against) that they must support when arriving to class on the day of the debate. The group will be expected to be prepared to present the topic and their side of the “argument” based on the research that they have conducted prior to the date of the debate – groups may use their papers as a reference during the debate. It is also important to structure the debate in such a way that all members of the group participate.

In preparation for the debate and as part of the grade, a paper (approximately two pages per person in the group—6-8 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, 3/4 inch margins, 12 point font) must be written to present the issue and both sides of issue (for and against). The paper should be written as a group project with individuals authoring individual sections. *The paper is due one week prior to the group debate so that the papers written may be used to write questions for the debate.* Part of this grade (Presentation grade) will be common among group members: technical merit (30%), clear presentation of appropriate view (20%), involvement of the entire group (10%), innovation in presentation style (5%). Each member of the group will also receive a grade component that is individual: quality of participation in the discussion (10%) and contribution to the group (5%). The contribution to the group will be identified by having each group member rank the other members of the group. The grade for the written report will be graded on: technical merit (50%), presentation of opposing views (20%), references (10%) and individual contribution to the paper (20%). Group debates will be 50-60 minutes in length; a portion of the questions will be preplanned from the papers written by each group and a portion of the questions will be based off of the comments/arguments made by the groups during the debate. Each member of the group will receive a grade out of 100 points on the presentation and paper.

Turning in Papers:

All papers – individual research papers, group papers, lecture write ups and guest speaker write ups will be turned in on D2L. Look for the appropriate folder on the dropbox page on the D2L Theory Home for all Capstone Sections. If you have questions, ASK! The grade book on D2L will not be used, but you should always be able to tell how many of each write up type you have completed by viewing the drop box in D2L.

Discussant Participation:

Each student should sign up as a "discussant" for two other student/individual presentation dates. There will be a sign-up sheet available at the beginning of each class period with student presentations. When you sign up as a discussant, you are responsible for asking at least two good questions during the discussion period following the presentation. You are also responsible to make certain that *each* student presenter (for individual presentations) is asked at least two questions. Of course, students are encouraged to ask questions during any presentations they attend. Half of the points for "Discussant participation" will be earned for each period in which the student serves as an official discussant.

Policy on late assignments

Assignments (including all papers, lab assignments and the paper for the group presentation) that are turned in late will have a deduction equal to 10% of their value for each day late (including weekends). This means that anything turned in 10 calendar days late will have no value at all to your grade.

Policy on class discussion:

Input from students is a necessary part of this course. You are almost through with your college career and should be prepared for extensive independent thought and discussion. With this in mind, the instructor will expect discussion and questions during all class meetings. The instructor will also refrain from expressing personal opinions in any situation where students should be expressing their opinions.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the use of words, information, data or ideas that belong to someone else without giving them proper credit. You will be writing several papers this semester. If you use information, data or ideas that come from someone else you should give a proper citation. If you use someone else's words you should clearly identify it as a quote and give a proper citation. In any case, a proper citation means that the author and year of the source is identified in the text and a full citation (authors, year, title, journal, volume, page number) is shown in the reference list. Given that a majority of the course grade results from individual and group papers, all papers will be subjected to review on "TURN IT IN.COM" where the paper is checked for plagiarism. The first time a student is guilty of plagiarism he/she will be asked to redo that assignment. The second offense will result in an "F!" in the course.

Academic Dishonesty:

Oklahoma State University is committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct of its members. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, and fraudulently altering academic records) will result in your being sanctioned. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript, and being suspended from the University. You have the right to appeal the charge. Contact the Office of Academic Affairs, 101 Whitehurst, 405-744-5627, academicintegrity.okstate.edu

Special Accommodations:

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, each student with a disability is responsible for notifying the University of his/her disability and requesting accommodations. If you think you have a qualified disability and need special accommodations, you should

notify the instructor and request verification of eligibility for accommodations from the Office of Student Disability Services. Contact Student Disability Services, to ensure timely implementation of appropriate accommodations. Faculty have an obligation to respond when they receive official notice of a disability but are under no obligation to provide retroactive accommodations. To receive services, you must submit appropriate documentation and complete an intake process during which the existence of a qualified disability is verified and reasonable accommodations are identified. Call 405-744-7116 or go to www.okstate.edu/ucs/stdis/.

Professionalism:

You are almost through with your college career and should be prepared to enter the professional world. The professional world will mean many things to different people. However, whether you are trying to sell a herd bull, close a major deal, work with young people, or sell a product, we all have consumers. To gain the trust and respect of your colleagues or buyers, professional ethics and how you present yourself are very important. We will try to work on these traits throughout the semester. *First of all, in class periods there shall be no hats, no cell phones, no talking unless there is a question, no feet on chairs, no sleeping, no reading newspapers, no text messaging.* These are all things your future employer would expect from you if you were in a meeting. Secondly, please pick up after yourselves when leaving class. If there is trash left in the classroom, more assignments will be provided. Finally, for speakers outside of class, please dress appropriately and adhere to the principles above.