

# PLSC 233 History & Impact of Turfgrass

3 Credits

**Instructor:** Dr. Brandon Horvath

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**Office hours:** Please make appointment

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**Course description:** Learn the history and development of the turfgrass industry and how that has impacted society.

**Student learning outcomes:** After completing PLSC 233 students will be able to:

1. **Explain** the key historical developments in turfgrass management
2. **Evaluate** the important changes in turfgrass management, and how those changes have resulted in improvements to turfgrass culture.
3. **Develop** a multi-media based term project that **examines** a historical turfgrass topic and the impact it has had on society.

**Course schedule:** MWF 2:15 PM to 3:05 PM, South Greenhouse 124

**Textbook:** We will use Dr. James Beard's "Turfgrass History and Literature" which can be found in our bookstore, acquired through the library, or purchased online. The link to Amazon is included here for reference:

<https://www.amazon.com/Turfgrass-History-Literature-Lawns-Sports/dp/1611861039>

**Regarding Coronavirus adaptations and social distancing:** Students are required to wear face masks at all times and maintain social distancing (6 feet between individuals in traditional classrooms, or, in instructional laboratories and similar settings, only a few minutes in closer proximity when absolutely necessary to achieve learning objectives). **Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home.** Instructors have the right to ask those who are not complying with these requirements to leave class in the interest of everyone's health and safety. In the event that a student refuses to comply with these requirements, the instructor has the right to cancel class.

Additionally, following other simple practices will promote good health in and out of the

classroom, such as frequent and thorough hand washing, wiping down desks and seats with disinfectant wipes whenever possible, not sharing personal items such as pens and cell phones, and avoiding crowded hallways and other enclosed spaces.

The Volunteer Creed reminds us that we bear the torch in order to give light to others. As Volunteers, we commit to caring for one another and for the members of the communities in which we live, work, and learn. This semester, the University asks that we all demonstrate the Volunteer spirit by following these and other health guidelines and requirements.

**We will be flexible when it comes to adjustments that need to be made regarding situations that may arise from a COVID related issue; and I would ask that you all are careful to not take advantage of this flexibility, and take your responsibility seriously.**

**Notes/outline:** Students are responsible for taking advantage of the various materials that are supplied through the Canvas course site. This is a flipped classroom, meaning that a students' homework is to watch lecture material and take notes on this material for use in our class meetings. These materials are provided to you to review **prior to class** in order to prepare for that day's topic. Our in-class meetings will be active, and will focus on specific topics raised by the lecture videos. See the video on the YouTube Channel that provides tips on watching videos and taking notes to prepare for class. **All provided materials are fair game for quiz and exam questions.**

We will also exercise some flexibility regarding classroom meetings because of COVID-19, and because of the previously videoed lecture material, we will be able to adjust if needed to online seamlessly.

**Late assignments:** Lose 25% per each day late (Max 2 days late)

**Missed exams:** **No makeup exams** will be scheduled without verifiable documentation of an extreme circumstance (e.g. death in immediate family).(Can be re-taken- see game dynamics)

**Class participation:** Participation in class is expected, and will make for more meaningful discussions. Respect of fellow classmates ideas and statements will be expected, lack of respect will not be tolerated. Also, note that participation, while not graded, may help in the form of random points earned for key contributions.

**Academic honesty required:** At no time will cheating on quizzes/exams be tolerated. Depending on the situation, the quiz/exam may receive zero points, the student may be asked to leave the class, or the student may be subjected to further disciplinary action at the university level (e.g., hearing with possible dismissal from the university). Plagiarism can be committed unintentionally by quoting or copying others' works without providing the proper credit (literature citations). Ask for help if you are unsure about plagiarism. Refer to University websites (<http://www.lib.utk.edu/instruction/plagiarism/>) on plagiarism, and academic dishonesty (<http://judicialaffairs.utk.edu/students/academic.php>) for more information.

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## Class Schedule\*

Week	Class	Day	Topics
1	1	W	Syllabus review, Introductions
	2	F	Turfgrass fundamentals
	3	M	Early uses of grasses
2	4	W	Turfgrass Perceptions & Social Capital
	5	F	Turfgrass Perceptions & Social Capital
	6	M	The Turfgrasses (Origins)
3	7	W	The Turfgrasses (Evolution, Migration)
	8	F	The Turfgrasses (Grazing, Human Interaction)
	9	M	Technology Topic- Using TGIF
4	10	W	<b>Exam 1 (thru Class 7)</b>
	11	F	The Turfgrasses (Cool Season)
	12	M	The Turfgrasses (Warm Season)
5	13	W	The Turfgrasses (Unique Grasses)
	14	F	Ancient Gardens
	15	M	Development of European Lawns
6	16	W	Development of American Lawns
	17	F	Divergence of European vs. American Lawns
	18	M	Lawn Technology (Mower Development)
7	19	W	Lawn Technology (Seeds, Irrigation, Fertilizing)
	20	F	Bowls and Cricket
	21	M	Early Sports Field Turfgrass
8	22	W	<b>Exam 2 (class 8 thru class 19)</b>
	23	F	Ancient Stick & Ball Games
	24	M	Soccer and Rugby
9	25	W	Croquet and Field Hockey
	26	F	Lacrosse
	27	M	Baseball/Softball
10	28	W	Polo and Horse Racing
	29	F	Early Golf Course Turfgrass Use
	30	M	Golf Course Layout and Construction
11	31	W	Evolution of Golf Maintenance Practices
	32	F	Greenkeeper/Superintendent
	33	M	Turfgrass Research (People)
12	34	W	<b>Exam 3 (class 20 thru class 31)</b>

Week	Class	Day	Topics
	35	F	Turfgrass Research (Discoveries)
	36	M	Turfgrass Associations & Giving Back
13	37	W	Review, Student Assessment of Teaching
	38	F	<b>FLEX DAY</b>
	39	M	<b>FLEX DAY</b>

**NOTE!!!** Final Exam will be handled via an online mechanism (TBD). I anticipate giving you a comprehensive exam that will assess your learning, without requiring lockdown browsers, etc.

**\*Please note that this schedule is a proposed time table for topics and examinations. Changes may be made to the above schedule as the semester progresses especially with regard to needed adjustments because of COVID-19 developments.**

### **Grading:**

I have been intrigued by how prevalent game dynamics are in everyday life. I have spent the last several months contemplating various assessment schemes to try to take the emphasis off of memorizing and regurgitating, and focus on the more natural learning processes of curiosity and struggle with subject matter. When we learn a new video game, or software package, it is almost impossible to memorize this info, but through our struggles with the material, we become proficient. As such, in this class, you will be receiving points for many different activities that are all focused on you learning this information rather than memorizing it to later regurgitate to me.

**Levels:** You will achieve levels based on the points you accrue as a result of various activities. Just as in various games you play, the more proficient you get with the material, the higher your level. Also, you don't face the risk of extending yourself intellectually, because this schedule is designed so that you don't lose the levels you've achieved. However, keep in mind that the expectations are high, and achievement at the highest levels is difficult. Your level will be updated once per week. The level structure is tied to your final grade as follows:

<b>Level</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Grade for this level</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>&lt; 100</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>D-</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>D+</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>C-</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>C+</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>B-</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>B+</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>A-</b>
	<b>815</b>	<b>A</b>

### **11 Assessments:**

Notebook Assignments (8 x 25 pts= 200 pts possible), Three exams (3 x 100 pts= 300 pts possible), Attendance (5 pts/class x 40 classes= 200 pts possible) Final Exam (200 pts possible)

Challenge Questions--(TBD- but many points are possible)

There are occasions where we do not complete all of the planned assessments. In that event, the points are scaled appropriately, to account for these missing assessments, so that the leveling system continues to perform as planned.