

# **PLSC 462 Professional Development in the Turfgrass Industry**

1 Credit Fall Semester

PBB 113

**Instructor:**

Dr. Brandon Horvath

**Email:**

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**Office hours:**

TBD, Please make appointment

**Phone:**

865-974-2975

**Canvas Site:**

Will be listed as 'PLSC 462-Professional Development in Turfgrass Industry'

**Course description:**

Interact with leaders from the Turfgrass Industry and learn from guests who come to campus to visit with you, and share their experiences.

**General course objectives:** After completing PLSC 462, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the breadth of opportunities available in the turfgrass industry.
2. Compose insightful questions regarding individuals that come to visit.
3. Prepare and deliver an oral presentation if participating in an internship this summer.

**Course schedule:**

Monday 3:30-4:20 PM

## **Classroom Policies:**

Guests: We will have several guest speakers, and several student speakers this semester. We expect that you will treat them with respect and courtesy, and ask them insightful questions about things that you are curious about regarding the turfgrass industry or related issues.

Class participation: Participation in this class is how you will be evaluated if you are not also giving a presentation. For each speaker, you will be asked to develop 5 questions that you would like to ask the guest (you will be able to review the preparation materials), and will turn them at the end of class. You will also receive extra points if you ask the question to the speaker (there will be limited time for this). Respect of fellow classmates ideas and statements will be expected, lack of respect will not be tolerated.

**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.**

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.

Class	Topic	Comments/Title
1	Introductions	n/a
2		
3		
4	Student Presentations 1	
5	Student Presentations 2 Resumes	
6	Student Presentations 3 Goals	
7		
8	Selecting an Internship	
9		
10	Student Presentations 4	
11	Placement Session 1	
12	Matt Layne, UT	
13		
14		
15		
16		

**\*Please note that this schedule is a proposed time table topics and examinations. Changes may be made to the above schedule as the semester progresses.**

**Grading:** You will be graded on attendance, and participation. The 5 questions you need to ask for each presentation day (not per speaker), need to be deeper than typical the 5W's type of questions (who, what, when, where, why). Those asking topic specific questions will receive a 5, those asking 5 questions of typical 5W's will receive a 4, Those with less than 5 questions will receive a 3, 2, 1 depending upon how many questions are asked. Those giving presentations can review the presentation rubric on the Canvas site. For those giving presentations, 50% of your grade is Class Participation, and 50% is Presentation. Your final grade will be determined by the total average of your grades, with a 5=A, 4=A-, 3=B, 2=C, 1=D.

**NOTE: Any student with more than 2 non-excused absences in the semester will fail this course. Excused absences are evaluated on a case by case basis and include but are not limited to; student trips for student organizations, athletics, illness w/doctor's note, significant family issues with documentation. The instructor is the final arbiter of whether an absence is excused or unexcused.**