

**HORT 115 Course Outline as of Spring 2016****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: HORT 115 Title: ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Full Title: Ornamental Grasses

Last Reviewed: 9/19/2011

| Units   | Course Hours per Week |                   | Nbr of Weeks |      | Course Hours Total |       |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|------|--------------------|-------|
| Maximum | 1.00                  | Lecture Scheduled | 1.00         | 17.5 | Lecture Scheduled  | 17.50 |
| Minimum | 1.00                  | Lab Scheduled     | 0            | 6    | Lab Scheduled      | 0     |
|         |                       | Contact DHR       | 0            |      | Contact DHR        | 0     |
|         |                       | Contact Total     | 1.00         |      | Contact Total      | 17.50 |
|         |                       | Non-contact DHR   | 0            |      | Non-contact DHR    | 0     |

Total Out of Class Hours: 35.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 52.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly: AG 297.69

**Catalog Description:**

Presents ornamental grasses as a diverse group of plants with many useful and aesthetic applications in the home garden and commercial landscape. Students will learn the basic structure and growth habits of ornamental grasses and how to identify, select, plant, maintain and propagate them. Classroom and field lectures demonstrate design applications and uses of grasses with other plants in the landscape.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:****Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

**Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: Presents ornamental grasses as a diverse group of plants with many useful and aesthetic applications in the home garden and commercial landscape. Students will learn the basic structure and growth habits of ornamental grasses and how to identify, select, plant, maintain and propagate them. Classroom and field lectures demonstrate design applications and

uses of grasses with other plants in the landscape. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit:

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

|                   |                      |            |           |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>AS Degree:</b> | <b>Area</b>          | Effective: | Inactive: |
| <b>CSU GE:</b>    | <b>Transfer Area</b> | Effective: | Inactive: |

|               |                      |            |           |
|---------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>IGETC:</b> | <b>Transfer Area</b> | Effective: | Inactive: |
|---------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|

|                      |            |           |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>CSU Transfer:</b> | Effective: | Inactive: |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|

|                     |            |           |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>UC Transfer:</b> | Effective: | Inactive: |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Both Certificate and Major Applicable

## **COURSE CONTENT**

**Outcomes and Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Define the meaning of the term "ornamental grass."
2. Designate the vegetative and flowering structures of grass plants.
3. Describe the life cycles, growth habits, and growth forms of ornamental grasses.
4. Identify ornamental grasses within a designated location.

**Topics and Scope:**

- I. Definition of ornamental grasses
  - A. True grasses (Poaceae family)
  - B. Grass-like plants
- II. Morphology of ornamental grasses
  - A. Vegetative parts (leaf, sheath, culm)
  - B. Growth habit (running, clumping)
  - C. Flower parts and seed heads
- III. Seasonal characteristics
  - A. Annuals, biennials and perennials
  - B. Evergreen and deciduous species
  - C. Warm and cool season species
- IV. Growth forms
  - A. Tufted
  - B. Mounded
  - C. Upright
  - D. Upright divergent
  - E. Upright arching

- F. Arching
- V. Uses of grasses in the landscape
  - A. Containers
  - B. Rock gardens
  - C. Water gardens
  - D. Wildlife gardens
  - E. Craft and cutting gardens
  - F. Meadow plantings
  - G. Aggressive and invasive species
- VI. Planting and maintenance
  - A. Soil and water needs
  - B. Cutting back foliage
  - C. Staking
  - D. Dividing and transplanting
  - E. Pest management
- VII. Representative genera, including:
  - A. Acorus
  - B. Bouteloua
  - C. Briza
  - D. Calamagrostis
  - E. Carex
  - F. Cortaderia
  - G. Cyperus
  - H. Deschampsia
  - I. Elymus
  - J. Equisetum
  - K. Festuca
  - L. Imperata
  - M. Juncus
  - N. Miscanthus
  - O. Muhlenbergia
  - P. Panicum
  - Q. Pennisetum
  - R. Phalaris
  - S. Scirpus
  - T. Stipa

**Assignment:**

1. Notebook of 12-18 ornamental grasses
2. List of ornamental grasses suitable for a small landscape
3. Landscape design showing ornamental grasses with other non-grass landscape plants
4. Brief research report on a selected ornamental grass
5. Two to three quizzes

**Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:**

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Written homework including notebook, report, and plant list

Writing  
20 - 30%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Landscape design project

Problem solving  
30 - 40%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Quizzes to include true/false

Exams  
30 - 50%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

None

Other Category  
0 - 0%

**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

Greenlee, John. Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses, Rodale Press, 1992. (classic)

Darke, Rick. The Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses, Timber Press, 1999 (classic)

King, Michael, and Oudolf, Piet. Gardening with Grasses, Timber Press, 1998 (classic)