FALL 2014

HISTORY AND PERSPECTIVES IN ANIMAL BREEDING

COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTORS

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SCHEDULE AND CREDIT

This on-line course will begin on Monday, November 3, 2014, and lasts five weeks. The ending date for the course is Fri., Dec. 12, 2014. This allows for a one-week break beginning Mon., Nov. 24, 2014, which coincides with the Thanksgiving holiday.

The content of this course is consistent with a one-credit graduate level course.

COURSE GOAL

The goal of this course is to provide students with a historical perspective of the discipline of Animal Breeding and Genetics and an appreciation for the contributions of several scientists that have significantly impacted the discipline. Weekly lectures will consist of pre-recorded interviews with scientists that have had an international impact in the field of animal breeding and genetics. The course materials will be presented using online tools prepared by the Instructors.

COURSE ACCESS

Access to course will be through Scholar via the URL https://scholar.vt.edu/portal.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Recognize the accomplishments of significant scholars in the field.
2. Identify the impact of scholarly papers written by the interviewees on current theory and practice in animal breeding and genetics.
3. Synthesize and communicate key concepts and developments that have advanced the discipline.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1
Dr. John Pollak
Dr. Dale Van Vleck

Week 2
Dr. Bill Hill
Dr. Robin Thompson

Week 3
Dr. Daniel Gianola
Dr. Dave Notter

Week 4
Dr. Richard Willham
Dr. Merlyn Nielsen

Week 5
Dr. Odd Vangen
Dr. Paul Siegel

TEXTBOOKS

No textbook is required for the course.

TOOLS REQUIRED

You will need a current version of Flash Player installed on your computer to “see” the audio-presentations. You will also need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view Portable Document Files (PDF) contained within the course. Finally, you will need to be able to create PDF files for homework assignments. This process can be accomplished within Microsoft Office software through the Print menu. If you choose a different software package to complete your homework assignment, you may need the full version of Adobe Acrobat to create a PDF of the work.
ASSIGNMENTS

Your performance will be evaluated based on:

- a weekly short paper (worth, in total, 60% of grade or 600 points);
- a weekly submission to the forum (worth, in total, 10% of grade or 100 points);
  and,
- a final term paper at the end of the course (worth 30% of grade or 300 points).

Short weekly paper. Each week, you will need to read and interpret at least one paper written by a “guest” speaker, and submit a brief written summary. A series of papers authored by the speakers will be posted for you to choose among.

Your short weekly paper is limited to a maximum of 300 words (approximately one page), not including any citations or references. All references are to be indicated in the form of the Journal of Animal Science.

We appreciate that many of you are in the early stages of your graduate studies, and that the content of some of the papers we post is challenging. Our expectation of you in your weekly papers is: i) to describe the objective or theme of the paper; ii) to explain the methodologies developed or used within the framework of your own experiences thus far; and, iii) to define the relevance, application or impact of the work to animal breeding.

Your weekly assignment is due by Monday at 11:59 p.m. your local time of the week that follows that in which it is assigned. Each short paper will contribute 12%, or 120 points, of your final grade (60%, or 600 points, in total).

Forum. Each week, you will need to make a posting to the course Forum. Although the instructors may post questions to the Forum, its intent is for you as students to discuss foundational concepts introduced by the speakers, and how they may apply to your own research projects. For instance, Forum postings can be used to identify questions you may have, or topics or concepts on which you would like additional information.

Your contribution to the forum will be assessed based on its relevance and usefulness in addressing the content of the speakers’ interviews, and their posted articles. Thus, the forums will be monitored.

Your Forum postings are due by the Monday at 11:59 p.m. your local time of the week that follows that in which it is assigned. Each week’s Forum posting will contribute 2%, or 20 points, toward your final grade (10%, or 100 points, in total).

Final term paper. At the end of the course, you will need to submit a term paper that synthesizes the knowledge that you have gained from the interviews you have heard, and the papers you have read. You will need to draw on at least two recent refereed
journal papers (from 2010 or later) outside of the course readings, which demonstrate the impact of the foundational developments or contributions of the guest speakers to animal breeding and genetics.

Your final paper is limited to a maximum of 1,500 words (approximately five pages), not including any citations or references. All references are to be indicated in the form of the *Journal of Animal Science*.

Your term paper is due by Wednesday, December 17, at 11:59 p.m. your local time zone. This assignment will contribute 30%, or 300 points, toward your final grade.

**GRADING**

You are assured of earning a final grade within a category shown below by earning the number of points specified.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>930 or above</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900 - 929</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>870 - 899</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>830 - 869</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>800 - 829</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>770 - 779</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>730 - 769</td>
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<td>700 - 729</td>
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<td>670 - 699</td>
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<td>600 - 629</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>599 or below</td>
<td>F</td>
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**STUDENT EVALUATION**

There will be formal opportunities at the middle and end of the course for students to evaluate its instruction, flow and content. These evaluations will be entirely anonymous. You will be contacted with instructions at the times when these evaluations are sought.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION** (for students’ resident at University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

- **Fire Alarm (or other evacuation):** In the event of a fire alarm: Gather belongings (Purse, keys, cellphone, N-Card, etc.) and use the nearest exit to leave the building. Do not use the elevators. After exiting notify emergency personnel of the location of persons unable to exit the building. Do not return to building unless told to do so by emergency personnel.
Tornado Warning: When sirens sound, move to the lowest interior area of building or designated shelter. Stay away from windows and stay near an inside wall when possible.

Active Shooter
- Evacuate: If there is a safe escape path, leave belongings behind, keep hands visible and follow police officer instructions.
- Hide out: If evacuation is impossible secure yourself in your space by turning out lights, closing blinds and barricading doors if possible.
- Take action: As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter.

UNL Alert: Notifications about serious incidents on campus are sent via text message, email, unl.edu website, and social media. For more information go to: [http://unlalert.unl.edu](http://unlalert.unl.edu).

Additional Emergency Procedures can be found here: [http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency_Procedures_Quicklist.pdf](http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency_Procedures_Quicklist.pdf)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements.

For students’ matriculated at the University of Nebraska, to receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are expected to adhere to guidelines concerning academic dishonesty outlined in Section 4.2 of the University’s Student Code of Conduct ([http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/](http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/)). Students are encouraged to contact the instructor for clarification of these guidelines if they have questions or concerns.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty can involve cheating; fabrication or falsification of information; plagiarism, including copying of written materials or “cutting and pasting” from websites without proper referencing; destroying, defacing, stealing, or making inaccessible library or other academic resource material; complicity in the academic dishonesty of others; falsifying grade reports; or misrepresenting illness, injury, accident, etc., to avoid or delay an examination or the timely submission of academic work.
Consequences of academic dishonesty in Animal Science courses, depending on the degree of severity as interpreted by an instructor, may range from a warning to assigning an F for the course. The instructor may also choose to assign a zero or partial credit for a specific assignment, quiz, examination or laboratory report in which dishonesty was involved. Before imposing an academic sanction the instructor shall first attempt to discuss the matter with the student. In all cases the instructor must document the instance(s) of student activity, which constitutes academic dishonesty. Documentation must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of one year and must be made available to appropriate department, college, and UNL authorities if cases of academic dishonesty result in disciplinary hearings and/or appeals at those levels. When an academic sanction is imposed that causes a student to receive a lowered course grade, the instructor shall make a report in writing of the facts of the case, and of the academic sanction imposed against the student, to the Animal Science Department Head and the UNL Director of Student Judicial Affairs. The student shall be provided with a copy of this report. Further, the instructor may recommend the institution of CASNR or UNL disciplinary proceedings against the student for violation of the Student Code of Conduct if the instructor, in the exercise of his or her professional judgment, believes that such action is warranted.

If a student facing sanctions due to academic dishonesty in an Animal Science Department course wishes to appeal such a sanction, the following process must be followed. First is a written appeal to the chief instructor of the course. Failing obtain resolution the student can appeal (in writing) to the Animal Science Department Head. The Department Head will refer the appeal to the Animal Science Curriculum Committee who will interview both the student and instructor, review all pertinent documentation, and then issue a decision. If a member of the Animal Science Curriculum Committee is also an instructor of the course in which academic dishonesty has been reported, the Animal Science Department Head will temporarily appoint a different faculty member to the committee hearing the appeal. If a solution satisfactory to the student is not achieved at the department level, the student may then appeal through the CASNR Dean’s office and the University Director of Student Judicial Affairs, in that order and subject to the processes and requirements of those offices.