

## PLHL 8800, Practicum in Plant Pathology Syllabus, Summer, 2013

We will make several visits to several locations involved in horticulture. Your overall goals will be to: 1) diagnose the diseases present at each location, and 2) to imagine yourself taking on a new faculty position with responsibilities such as those described below and to develop priorities for extension and applied research projects you would pursue if you took such a position.

Your dream job description:

*The candidate chosen will have statewide extension responsibilities related to plant disease identification and management in ornamentals and turf grasses (home, athletic, and golf courses), vegetables, fruit and nut crops, Christmas trees, and forestry. The appointee will share responsibility for management of producer education programs, pesticide certification and re-certification training, Master Gardener program, field days and individual farm/home visits. The incumbent will assist in annual production of the Plant Disease Control Guide as well as regular news releases and informational publications. The candidate is also expected to have a good working relationship with research counterparts, chemical company representatives, crop consultants, commodity boards, state and federal agencies, and other nongovernmental organizations.*

Each student will be expected to maintain a notebook. At a minimum, the notebook should include the following items:

- Descriptions of each of the problems we observe on field trips, including symptoms, signs if any, patterns in the field and any other information that may be helpful in diagnosing the problem.
- Preliminary hypotheses – for each problem assigned, each student should write in the field their own testable hypothesis after making observations but before group discussions. Teams of 3 students will be assigned and each team will be responsible for uploading their final hypotheses and plan for testing them to the Moodle site by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, the day after the field trip.
- Follow ups – describe attempts to test hypotheses for the cause of each problem.

The last week of the semester, you will be expected to give a presentation and submit the Power Point file from that presentation. Each student will be expected to take the lead for one subject area, but all students will be expected to actively participate in diagnoses and presentations for all the subject areas. Therefore, assignments for the presentations will be randomly drawn during the week of July 22.

We will meet each Monday afternoon, 1:30-2:30 in A465 to update from the previous week's field trip and to plan for the field trip for the next day. I will set up a Moodle site for the course for discussions on the hypothesis testing. Except for the last two weeks of the semester, we will go on field trips each Tuesday. I will do my best to complete as many of them as possible by lunch time, but the trips to the USDA lab at Poplarville, MS and the Red River Station will take most of a day.

Before class on Monday, June 10, please read:

<http://www.apsnet.org/edcenter/intropp/topics/Pages/PlantDiseaseDiagnosis.aspx>

and the handout entitled Introductory Practicum Discussion Outline that is on the Moodle site.

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<b><u>Week of:</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>
June 10	Small fruit diseases - USDA Lab at Poplarville, MS – 6/11
June 17	Vegetable Diseases – tomato, watermelon, pepper - Burden – 6/18
June 24	Fruit diseases – fig, citrus, grape, peach – Burden – 6/25 – Charlie Johnson
July 1	Ornamentals – field trip to Hammond Research Station 7/2 – Allen Owings
July 8	Red River Research Station 7/9 – cowpea, pecan? diseases – Blair Buckley
July 15	Burden - Turf diseases
July 22	updates on diagnoses, random draw of presentation assignments
July 29	Project Report Powerpoints Due - Presentations