



VIN 115 (VIT 1205) Summer/Fall Viticulture Technology

Semester: Summer 2010

Date: June 7 - October 15* (*The lecture portion will end on September 5.)

Course No.: VIN 115

Course Name: Summer/Fall Viticulture Technology

Course Credit: 2 Hours

Room: Online

Instructor: Jeff Wheeler, Research Analyst in Viticulture & Enology, University of Kentucky

E-mail: jeff.wheeler@uky.edu

Phone: (618) 549-3192

Office Hours: By appointment only.

Course Description: Coursework for VIN 115 will focus on fundamental viticulture issues related to the grape maturation process. Students will be introduced to the knowledge and practical skills required to control and monitor grape berry growth and development as it relates to successful commercial production of both table and wine grapes adapted to the continental climate of the Eastern United States.

Students are required to partner with an approved vineyard to participate in a field practicum portion of the course, which will provide hands-on work experience for those seeking employment in the field of commercial viticulture.

Prerequisite: VIN 111 or permission

Students interested in taking VIN 115 should have a basic understanding of vineyard establishment, vine training, and vine anatomy. Students are required to have successfully completed VIN 111 before registering for VIN 115. Prerequisite coursework may be waived with permission from the instructor for students having significant practical vineyard experience.

Recommended Prerequisites: VIN 113 and VIN 114

Other VESTA courses including VIN 113 and VIN 114 may also be helpful for students wishing to enroll in VIN 115. These courses are highly recommended but non-required for acceptance into VIN 115.

Next Course in Sequence: VIN 213 or VIN 211 or VIN 293

Course Objectives

Through field experience, lectures, facilitated discussions, written assignments the student will effectively and efficiently:

- Quantify canopy quality parameters
- Quantify vine vigor and vine balance
- Determine potential yield
- Monitor grape berry development
- Perform analysis of soluble solids, titratable acidity, and pH of a field collected grape sample
- Monitor vineyard for fruit damage/rot; identify source and severity of damage
- Manage harvest operations

Required Textbooks

1. *Wine Grape Production Guide for Eastern North America*. 2008. Wolf, T. K. Natural Resource, Agriculture & Engineering Service (NRAES) Cooperative Extension. ISBN: 13-978-1-933395-12-8.
2. *Viticulture, Volume 2: Practices*. 1992 (last reprint 1998). edited by B.G. Coombe and P.R. Dry. Winetitles. ISBN: 13-978-1875130016.
3. *Sunlight into Wine*. 2003. Smart, R., and M. Robinson. Winetitles. ISBN: 13-978-1875130108.
4. *Micro Vinification*. 2001. Dharmadhikari, M. R., and K. L. Wilker. Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station. ISBN: 13-978-0970797100.

Proposed Topics and Schedule

Week	Lecture Topic
1	Course Introduction: Expectations and Review of Pruning and Training
2	Vine Balance
3	Canopy Management
4	Grape Berry Growth and Development
5	Crop Yield Estimation and Crop Management
6	Review for Exam I
7	Exam I (no live class meeting)
8	Collecting a Representative Fruit Sample
9	Assessing Canopy Quality and Vine Vigor
10	Perform the Lab Analysis for °Brix, pH, and T.A.
11	Determining Time of Harvest
12	Harvesting
13	Review and Exam II
14 to End	Complete Practicum Requirements as Needed (no live class meetings)

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the schedule as necessary.

Instructional Methods

This is an online course with a synchronous component. An online course site is used to provide announcements, lectures, notes, and supplemental printed and web-based materials to the students. It also serves as a central point for interaction/communication between the instructor and the students.

The live class meeting will take place once a week on **Thursday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. Central Time** via the Centra web-based conference system. Participation to the live class meetings is required. The weekly synchronous session is for the instructor to go over weekly topic highlight and for students to interact with the instructor and fellow students through questions and discussions.

Expectations

With the online course format, students are expected to participate in the live class meetings and check the online course site on a regular base. Students should also be aware of the required activities and assignments, and adhere to the deadlines. This will ensure a successful learning experience.

Field Practicum

There is a required 32-hour practicum component to this course. Each student is required to identify a vineyard and mentor that would be willing to allow the student to put into practice the theory and skills learned in class. After identifying the mentor, the student should complete the Field Practicum Site Form (available on the online course site) and fax the form to the VESTA office by the second Friday after the semester starts. Upon receipt of the form, the VESTA office will send a packet of information to the mentor explaining the field practicum, the skill set to be completed by the student, and the mentor's role in the field experience.

The practicum hours should be completed within the semester. If it is not possible due to regional differences, the student should inform the instructor in advance and work out a schedule for completing the practicum hours. The practicum is completed when the VESTA office receives a summary practicum evaluation from the mentor.

Course Assignments

Course assignments will be posted on the Rend Lake College's VIN 115 Blackboard course site; and will include weekly readings (web and print-based materials), weekly written assignments, and two exams. Students are also required to keep a detailed journal of tasks completed during the field practicum portion of the course.

Weekly reading assignments will include the most current, relevant, and practical literature appropriate for introductory viticulture students. The books required for VIN 115 should also serve as valuable references upon completion of the course.

Weekly written assignments are designed to reinforce the most important topics discussed in the weekly reading material. Student's answers to these questions will serve as a meter for the instructor to determine the level of student understanding of the literature prior to the weekly class discussions.

Weekly class discussions will take place during the weekly Centra live class meeting and will typically last one hour. Students should come to class discussion sessions prepared to ask questions and discuss issues related to the current weekly topic. Participation in the live class meeting is crucial. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance if he/she has to miss a class. Students who missed a class meeting should view the session recording as soon as possible.

Exams will be of short essay questions and will be posted on the course site.

Field Practicum and Journal is an important part of the course. It is crucial that students identify a practicum site as early as possible (no later than the second week of the course!). The *Practicum Skill Set* is a list of tasks to be completed by the student during the field practicum portion of the course. These tasks have been designed to provide students with exposure to skills that will be required for successful employment in the field of commercial grape production. As a way to monitor the success of the field practicum portion of the course students will be asked to complete a journal, detailing the student's experience. Details on format and required entries will be provided on the online course site.

Expected Work Load

Students registered for VIN 115 will be expected to visit the VIN 115 Blackboard site at <http://bb.rlc.edu> to complete the following weekly assignments in a timely manner:

Read relevant viticulture text, answer questions regarding the reading assignment, watch recorded lectures, attend class discussions held on Centra, complete tasks listed on the Practicum Skill Set, and complete journal entries for each visit/contact with mentor. An estimation of the time required for individual weekly tasks is as follows:

- 1 - 2 hours reading assigned viticulture text
- 0.5 - 1 hour completing written assignments
- 0.5 - 1 hour watching recorded lecture
- 0.5 - 1 hour attending class discussion (Centra session)
- 2 - 4 hours completing Field Practicum Skill Set
- 0.5 - 1 hour writing practicum journal entries
- = 5 - 10 hours per week

Grading

Grading is on a simple point system as follows:

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D

The percentage weight of student performance will be:

Examinations	30%
Assignments	10%
Class Participation	10%
Mentor's Practicum Report	25%
<u>Practicum</u>	<u>25%</u>
Total Grade	100%

Incomplete grades are not given in this class. Should it become necessary to withdraw, it is the student's responsibility to do so according to the guidelines in the Rend Lake College student handbook.

Attendance Policy

VESTA believes that students must attend class in order to achieve the best learning results. In the case of online courses, attendance is defined as active participation in the form of attending synchronous class meetings (if applicable), completing reading/writing/testing assignments by assigned deadlines, and maintaining regular communication with course instructor via the online course site and communication tools designated by the instructor. For courses with a field practicum/workshop component, students must participate and complete the number of hours of practical experience required. Instructors may assign attendance grade as part of course grade if they choose to do so.

Make up Policy and Special Instructions

The exams can be made up only in the event of an excused absence where the instructor has prior knowledge of the absence. Allowance of make-up tests will be at the discretion of the instructor and will be taken on the date of the student's return to class.

Academic Integrity

This class is subject to Rend Lake College's Academic Integrity policy. All submitted work must be your own. Cheating or Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined by Rend Lake College's Academic integrity policy.

Equal Educational Opportunity

Rend Lake College is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability.

Students with Disabilities

If you have, or believe you have, a disability and would benefit from accommodations, you may contact Sue Cunningham, at 437-5321, Extension 1204.