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Grape and Wine Education for the 21st Century

VIN 215 – Summer/Fall Viticulture Technology

Date: May 7¹ – October 12, 2018

VESTA Course No.: VIN 215

Course Name: Summer/Fall Viticulture Technology

Instructor: Dylan Rolfes

Office Hours: By appointment via email

Semester: Spring/Summer 2018

Course Credit: 2 Hours

Delivery: Online

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Course Description

Coursework for VIN 215 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 215 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 215. Prerequisite coursework may be waived with permission from the instructor for students having significant practical vineyard experience.

Recommended Prerequisites: VIN 212 and VIN 214

Other VESTA courses including VIN 212 and VIN 214 may also be helpful for students wishing to enroll in VIN 215. These courses are highly recommended but non-required for acceptance into VIN 215.

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

Course Objectives

Through field experience, lectures, facilitated discussions, written assignments the student who successfully completes this course 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

¹ Lecture portion of the course will begin June 11th and ends August 27

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. *Sunlight into Wine*. (2003). Smart, R., and M. Robinson. Winetitles. ISBN: 13-978-1875130108.

Course Schedule and Outline of Topics

Week — Dates	Monday Live Class Meeting	Lecture Topics
1 06/11 - 06/17	06/11	Course Introduction: Expectations and Review of Pruning and Training Week 1 Quiz
2 06/18 - 06/24	06/18	Vine Balance Week 2 Quiz
3 06/25 - 07/1	06/25	Canopy Management Week 3 Quiz
4 07/02 - 07/08	07/02	Grape Berry Growth and Development Week 4 Quiz
5 07/09 - 07/15	07/09	Crop Yield Estimation and Crop Management Week 5 Quiz
6 07/16 - 07/22	07/16	Review and Exam I Take Exam I (due @ 11:59 pm Central on July 22)
7 07/23 - 07/29	07/23	Collecting a Representative Fruit Sample Week 7 Quiz
8 07/30 - 08/05	07/30	Assessing Canopy Quality and Vine Vigor Week 8 Quiz
9 08/06 - 08/12	08/06	Perform the Lab Analysis for Brix, pH, and T.A. Week 9 Quiz
10 08/13 - 8/19	08/13	Determining Time of Harvest Week 10 Quiz
11 08/20 - 08/26	08/20	Harvesting Week 11 Quiz
12 08/27 - 09/02	08/27	Review, Exam II and Wrap Up Take Exam II (due by 11:59 pm Central on Sept 02)
13 to end 09/03 - 10/12	—	Complete All Practicum Requirements (No additional live class meetings)

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

Instructional Format

This is an online course with a synchronous component. An online course site (Learning Management System) is provided by the host institution to provide announcements, lectures, notes, supplemental printed and web-based materials, and assignments to the students. It also serves as a central point for interaction/communication between the instructor and the students.

Live Class Meetings

The live class meeting will take place every **Monday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Central Time** via the **Zoom** web conferencing system. Participation to the live class meetings is *required* and a participation grade is assigned. This is an opportunity for the instructor to go over weekly topic highlights and for students to interact with the instructor and fellow students through questions and discussions. Students are expected to be prepared to ask questions and actively participate in the discussions.

The link to the Zoom virtual classroom will be posted at the top of each weekly module. Students will use the *same* virtual classroom for their live class meetings the entire semester. The sessions will take place on the dates listed in the above schedule.

It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance if he/she must miss a class. Students who missed a class meeting are required to view the recording of the live class as soon as possible.

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 their mentor, the student should complete the online **Field Practicum Site Form** (link available on the course site and the VESTA website) by the end of the **second** week of the semester. Upon receipt of the form, the VESTA office will send a packet of information to the mentor explaining the field practicum, the skill sets to be completed by the student, and the mentor's role in the field experience. The packet also includes a **Student Assessment Form (SAF)** for the mentor to fill out and send to the VESTA office at the conclusion of the practicum.

The course schedule is designed to allow for regional differences. Therefore, students should complete the practicum hours within the specified semester time frame. The practicum is completed when the VESTA office receives the student/trainee evaluation from the mentor.

Course Assignments

Course assignments will be posted on Moodle, Highland Community College's Learning Management System; and will include weekly readings (web and print-based materials), weekly quizzes and discussion questions, and two exams. Students are also required to keep a detailed online 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 215 should also serve as valuable references upon completion of the course. They should be completed before the weekly live class meeting.

Weekly quizzes are designed to reinforce the most important topics discussed in the weekly reading material. Student's answers to these quiz 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. Students should take the weekly quiz after completing the reading assignments but before the live class meeting.

Weekly class discussions will take place during the weekly Zoom 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 online course site.

Field Practicum and Journal is an important part of the course. It is critical 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 an online 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 215 will be expected to visit the VIN 215 online course site to complete the following weekly assignments in a timely manner. Every week read the relevant viticulture text, answer questions regarding the reading assignment, watch recorded lectures, post discussion board questions, attend live class meeting, answer discussion board questions, complete tasks listed on the Practicum Skill Set, and complete journal entries for each visit/contact with your mentor. An estimation of the time required for individual weekly tasks is as follows:

- 1 – 2 hours reading assigned viticulture text
 - ½ – 1 hour completing written assignments and quizzes
 - ½ – 1 hour watching recorded lecture
 - ½ – 1 hour attending weekly live class session (Zoom session)
 - 2 – 4 hours completing Field Practicum Skill Set
 - ½ – 1 hour writing practicum journal entries
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- = 5 – 10 hours per week

Expectations and Instructor Feedback

Students should participate in the weekly virtual class meetings. It is also the students' responsibility to check the online course site on a regular basis, be aware of the required activities and assignments, and adhere to the deadlines. This will ensure a successful learning experience. The instructor will make every effort to respond to student questions and complete assignment/exam grading on a timely manner.

Grading

Grading is on a simple point system as follows:

90 – 100%	=	A
80 – 89.9%	=	B
70 – 79.9%	=	C
60 – 69.9%	=	D
Below 60%	=	F

Percentage Weight of Student Performance		
Activity	Percentage	Points
Weekly Quizzes	12.5%	125 (12.5 points each)
Live Class Participation	12.5%	125 (at least 10 participations)
Exam I	12.5%	125
Exam II	12.5%	125
Field Practicum + Journal	50%	500
Total	100%	1000

Student Journals must be submitted on or before October 12, 2018.

Student Assessment Forms must be received on or before October 12, 2018.

Final Grades will be submitted the week of October 15, 2018.

Grades of Incomplete are not given in this class. It is the students' responsibility to see that all graded assignments and exams reach the instructor in a timely fashion, so grades can be issued.

Highland Community College Institutional Policies

Withdrawing from the Course

Should it become necessary to withdraw, it is the student's responsibility to do so according to the guidelines in the Highland Community College *Student Handbook* which can be viewed and/or downloaded at: <https://highlandcc.edu/caffeine/uploads/files/2016-17%20Handbook.pdf>

**Students planning to withdraw from this course must also complete the VESTA Withdrawal/Change of Schedule form and submitting to the VESTA office.*

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, 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

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 Highland Community 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 Highland Community College's Academic Integrity Policy in the *Student Handbook* which can be viewed and/or downloaded at: <https://highlandcc.edu/caffeine/uploads/files/2016-17%20Handbook.pdf>

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged. In order to begin the process all students must complete the "Disabilities Self-Identification Form" at this link: <https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services>. This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.