# CSS 202 - World of Turf

# ONLINE INTRODUCTORY COURSE FOR NON-TURF MAJORS

# SPRING SEMESTER 2024

This eighteen-page syllabus contains the comprehensive information needed to take the course. **This is the only reading assignment in the course. Pay particular attention to the bolded text**. The Course Introduction slide presentation (in the Getting Started with Syllabus module under the Content tab) expands on much of the what is here.

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If you still have questions about the course (**after reviewing everything in the Getting Started module**), then check the **FAQ** section or use the informational forum **Questions and Answers about the Course Structure, Navigation, and Grading** found in Discussions under the Communications tab.

Technology Requirements

To participate in this online course, you will need a dependable computer with an updated operating system (OS) and reliable access to a dependable internet connection. Your browser should be a current version of Firefox, Chrome, Edge, or Safari, in order of MSU IT Services’ preference. Apple or Android tablets and smartphones with updated OS should be able to access the course as well.

Course Management System (D2L)

The course is accessible 24/7 except when D2L is being serviced (notifications posted on your MSU D2L Homepage). If you are unfamiliar with D2L, then login at [msu.edu/d2l](https://d2l.msu.edu/d2l/loginh/) and then click the Self-Registration tab. There, you will find the link to a short tutorial entitled *Students-Getting Started with D2L*.

Calling IT Services is the best way to get help between 7 AM and midnight. With your permission, they can impersonate you and see exactly where you are, which is something that the instructor is unable to do is. Call them at **517-432-6200 option 2** or go to [ithelp.msu.edu](https://ithelp.msu.edu) → Live Support Options → Live Chat.

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If you have unreliable or slow internet access, then you are especially urged to work at or ahead of the Recommended Pace of Study (shown on homepage) to ensure that your assignments are completed before your access to them ends. This is especially true with discussion forums since they cannot be reopened for any reason.

The Help Desk strongly recommends that you **clear your browser's cache and cookies before starting an exam** or anytime you Internet connection Is having issues. They can show you how.

Since this course Is not one of your main courses, it might be a good Idea to pin the course on your D2L homepage, so that you don't loose track that you're taking it.

Credit: Two (2-0)

Catalog Description

Role of turf in society and the environment. Principles underlying establishment and maintenance of turf on athletic fields, parks, home lawns, and golf courses. Aesthetic, safety, and economic aspects of turfgrass management practices.

Learning Objectives (achieved via discussion forums, quizzes, and exams)

By the end of the course, students should have some knowledge and understanding of the following:

* + Economic value and impact of the turf industry
  + Differences among turfgrass species as to appearance and growth habits.
  + Macroclimate and microclimate adaptations and limitations among species.
  + Establishment procedures
  + Mowing, fertilization, irrigation, and cultivation practices
  + Pest management concepts and practices
  + Functional, aesthetic, and economic benefits of turf
  + Safety and liability concerns with turfed surfaces
  + Environmental impacts of turf management (and mismanagement)
  + Appreciation of turf management as a business and profession
  + Chronology of essential practices to care for cool-season turf on a seasonal basis

See the **Guide to Learning Course Objectives** located in the Schedules module. This document has a table that lists the learning objectives above, the lectures and forums where their related content can be found, and the quizzes and exams that assess each objective.

Instructor

Dr. David Gilstrap (he, him, his)

Senior Specialist

Plant and Soil Sciences

517-353-0140

[gilstrap@msu.edu](mailto:gilstrap@msu.edu)

BS Tarleton State University General Agriculture

MS Texas A&M University Agronomy

PhD Michigan State University Plant Pathology

Office Hours

Wednesdays 8 to 10 AM via Zoom Meeting ID**: 994 0965 7295** Password: **CSS202**. Entering puts you in a queue in the waiting room. Other times can be arranged. The instructor reserves the right to reschedule office hours when he has a conflict.

**Zoom office hours are not avenues for requesting any sort of special consideration with regards to grades. In fact, no such place exists in this course.**

Textbook/ Course Pack ‒ None

**Definitions of terms used in the course can be found via the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) on the course homepage.** Accept the terms, click the login button, and click on Basic Search. Then simply type in the term you want defined. If assistance is needed, call MSU Library Support Services at (517) 353-8700.

Expectations

Students are responsible for carefully studying the lectures and respectfully participating in the discussion forums. In addition, students should submit quizzes and exams by their due dates, and for sure by their end dates, or lose out on earning points, accordingly.

Pace of Study

This two-credit course is designed to require approximately six hours per week. In a traditional course this would equate to two hours outside of class for each hour of lecture, as per university guidelines. So, if you want to ensure that you do well in this course, then manage your time accordingly.

The **Recommended Pace of Study** is a semester long timetable as shown on the course homepage. The version found in the Schedules module includes quiz due dates, which are soft, friendly reminders to keep up in the course. The end dates for quizzes coincide with their respective exams. **All quiz submissions after due dates will be tagged late, although they still receive full credit.**

By viewing the **Calendar Showing Opening and Ending Dates** (also in Schedules), you can see that the course can be completed early, However, it is not possible to have any content opened any earlier than what is shown.

Assignments

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Forum-Policy Acknowledgement | 1 |
| Lecture Quizzes (23 worth 10 points each) | 230 |
| Seasonal-Care Quizzes (3 worth 5 points each) | 15 |
| Discussion Forums (6 worth 4 points each) | 24 |
| First Exam (1 part) | 40 |
| Second Exam (2 parts) | 60 |
| Final Exam (3 parts) | 80 |
| Total Available | 450 |

Course Grades ‒ **Total points are all that matter.**

Here is the minimum number of points needed for each grade.

4.0 ‒ 410.00 points 3.5 ‒ 390.00 points

3.0 ‒ 360.00 points 2.5 ‒ 330.00 points

2.0 ‒ 300 points 1.5 ‒ 270 points

1.0 ‒ 230 points 0.0 ‒ 10 points (otherwise dropped by

mid semester for non-activity)

There are no “hardship”, “like to have”, “must have”, nor “please help me” points.

*This is an easy course with a lot of content and assignments. The instructor realizes that the above does not conform to traditional scales, but that is his prerogative. Not putting enough effort in a timely fashion is nearly always the reason for not earning the grade you might have hoped to receive*. *There must be cut-off points for grades, and the above are them.*

The 410.00 points is a firm cutoff set since a majority of grades will be 4.0. The 390.00 is a firm cutoff for a 3.5. Historically, 80% of the grades are 3.5 or 4.0. On the other hand, the lower the grades, the more forgiving is the scale, which makes the half-off penalty for late quizzes and exams less punitive (see Makeup Policy below). A student who completes the course and makes a legitimate attempt on all quizzes and exams (including makeups if needed) will at least pass the course.

If earning a 4.0 is important to you, then simply put in the time and effort needed to earn 410.00 points. This involves studying the content instead of merely clicking through videos and slide shows to get to the quizzes.

**Please do not email the instructor asking for a higher grade than what is indicated in the above scale.**

Viewing Assignment Grades and Points to Date

Students may access their assignment grades under the Assessments tab. Click the small calculator icon View calculation for Click Calculator Icon to View Points Earned So Far at the bottom of the grades page to view the total number of points earned. In the box that opens, the total so far will be at the bottom. IT Services can assist you with how to do this – 517-432-6200 option 2.

View your point total to date by going to Assessments --> Grades. At the bottom of the page, click on the calculator icon. Do not add them up on your own or risk a miscalculation that will be your own fault and not that of the instructor. **DISREGARD THE DENOMINATOR, which also means DISREGARD THE PERCENTAGE.** Adding up points on your own can result in an erroneous assumption, which you might not realize until the course has ended, when it is too late to do anything about it.

With confidence, you can use the true number of total points to determine your grade based on a strict interpretation of the scale above, if you have finished the course, or you can play what-if with any remaining assignments. **The instructor will not do this for you and does not provide confirmation as to any predeterminations that you may make with regard to your grade.**

**THE INSTRUCTOR DOES NOT VIEW POINT TOTALS NOR SUBMIT GRADES UNTIL THE SEMESTER HAS ENDED.**

Course Content

Videos include narrative information not shown on the slideshows. The slideshows may contain additional (or different) information than that in the video clips.

In instances where information differs, **the slideshow is the truer source.**

Getting Started (with Syllabus) Module (under Content tab)

This module has release conditions, which means items each item must be done in order for the next item to appear (release).

Course Introduction — must be completed in order to release Dos and Don’ts

Dos and Don’ts — must be completed in order to release Course Intro Quiz

Course Intro Quiz — (re)take until every answer is correct, then can move on

Student Questionnaire — must be completed in order to release Lecture 1

Schedules Module (no release conditions)

Recommended Pace (see section below)

Calendar Showing Open and Close Dates

Forums with Respective Topics and Lectures

Exam Previews (shows how many questions from each lecture)

Discussion Forums and Topics (under Communication tab and also in their respective weeks’ modules under Content tab)

The interaction amongst students, teaching assistants, and the instructor is facilitated through on-line discussions. After a lecture is completed, a corresponding topic opens. Forums are bundled into three or four topics each. So, topics exist within forums. Therefore, **forums and topics are not synonymous.**

Forums end at 11:59 PM (Michigan time) on the last day of the extended periods shown below:

**Forum 1: Jan 14 ‒ 28 Forum 2: Jan 28 ‒ Feb 18 Forum 3: Feb 11 ‒ Mar 17**

**Forum 4: Feb 25 ‒ Mar 31 Forum 5: Mar 10 ‒ Apr 14 Forum 6: Mar 24 ‒ April 21**

Students are rewarded for posting questions and comments concerning the course's subject matter AND replying to those posted by other students. **Examples of good and bad posts, especially regards to the subject fields, are shown in the Course Introduction** slide presentation in the Getting Started with Syllabus module under the Content tab.

**Discussions are graded each Monday morning.** Therefore, points are not awarded instantaneously, so don’t be alarmed when they are not.

Within each of six forums (Forums 1-6), there are three or four topics. Posting (creating a new thread) in any topic within a forum earns two points. Replying (adding to an existing thread) to any thread within any topic within a forum also earns two points. A maximum of 24 points can be earned in these ways.

(1 Post + 1 Reply) X 6 Forums = 24 Points

**You must post and reply within every forum to earn 24 points total for the semester. You do not have to do so in every topic ‒ just in every forum.** The Course Introduction slide show explains this further.

**Forums don’t open until all of its topics open,** as shown In the Calendar Showing Opening and Closing Dates in the Schedules module. That’s because students often post in the first available topic, which results in skewed participation across all the topics in a forum.

**If you still can’t see a topic, then it’s because you haven’t completely gone through the lecture.** These release conditions are in place to prevent students from diluting discussions about content that haven’t even looked at.

**The discussion board for each topic automatically displays the forum number, the topic title, and the name of the student. THEREFORE, NONE OF THESE SHOULD BE REPEATED IN YOUR SUBJECT LINE.** Instead, describe specifically what you are posting about. That way other students can more easily browse for content that that might interest them. Examples of proper titles can be found in the Course Introduction.

Teaching assistants will monitor the Forums 1-6 and offer input and clarification when warranted. Students should refrain from posting comments that are frivolous, nonsensical, or otherwise appear to be made with the sole purpose of earning points. Images of such posts will be captured for future reference, and then the posts will be summarily deleted. Any points that might have been earned for that forum will be lost and cannot be made up with later postings. Any points credited for such later postings will be later deleted by the instructor. In other words, **if you post in this fashion, or below, then you risk the possibility that your grade for that forum will be a zero.**

Posts that are inappropriate, i.e., comments that one should not make in a classroom, will also be dealt with as above. Furthermore, those students will be subject to further actions according to university guidelines concerning disruptive class behavior. Additionally, comments such as “I agree” will be deleted unless they are followed by an explanation as to why. The interpretation is that such students are just to trying to get a grade.

**Such postings add nothing to the course and only distract from the value of the exercise. You may not get caught immediately, but you will in time with consequences described above. The deletion of non-compliant posts and replies may result in points lost that had previously been awarded. If this occurs after a forum had ended, there is no recourse.** The Course Introduction slide show explains this further.

PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL THE INSTRUCTOR WANTING TO KNOW WHEN THE DISCUSSION GRADES WILL BE UPDATED.

A zero grade indicates that either a forum has not yet been graded, or that you missed the closing date.

If you think that there has been an error, then please go back and check to see if you actually posted in the forum in question. For instance, a student might think she posted in Forums 1, 2, and 3 when actually she posted in the topics associated with Lectures 1, 2, and 3, all of which are within Forum 1.To avoid such mistakes,see **Forums with Respective Topics and Lectures** in the Schedules module.

NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR A MISPLACED POST OR REPLY (See Forums with Respective Topics and Lectures in Schedules module). **Please do not email the instructor asking for special exceptions, because there are none.** For instance, do not ask if you can get receive credit for additional posts and replies in forums subsequent to those you have missed because that is not going to happen.

These forums are effectively the equivalent of in-class discussions, and their availability is prolonged over an extended number of days, which is the period that discussions can benefit the students who are staying engaged in the course. After that, the course has moved onto new content, so firm end-dates are in place as incentives to not lag too far behind the Recommended Pace. Furthermore, **D2L is not programmed to allow forums to be accessed by individual students, so reopening a forum for one would consequently reopen it for others who could take advantage of the opportunity, which would lessen the integrity of the course.**

**MISSED FORUMS CANNOT BE MADE UP!**

These wide windows in which the forums are open are shown below:

Forum 1 – 14 days  Forum 2 – 28 days Forum 3 – 35 days

Forum 4 – 21 days  Forum 5 – 35 days Forum 6 – 28 days

**Therefore, it is in the best interest for each student to manage their time and work ahead of end dates to avoid missing out on easy points.**

Each forum counts for less than 1% of the overall grade (4/450).

In addition, there are separate informational forums spaced throughout the course. These deal with questions and comments about how the course works as well as ones dedicated to each of the exams. There are **no points associated with these informational forums**. The instructor subscribes to these and will be notified when something new appears there. This is a good way for students to interact with the instructor concerning general concerns, rather than through email, since other students might have similar questions and can therefore view timely responses from the instructor or other students. Concerns of a personal nature should be communicated via email directly to the instructor.

Posts that do fit within the scope of a particular informational topic will be deleted, as well as any others that should not be there (see above). Most of all, do not reveal any quiz or exam questions, but instead email the instructor directly with such concerns. There are no points associated with these informational forums.

Lecture Quizzes

Upon completely going through a lecture (including the text-only slides) a quiz is released and comes into view and can be taken. For example, **all of Lecture 1 must be completed (including text-only slides) in order for Quiz 1 to appear.**

Lecture Quizzes allow for unlimited attempts for maximum score. The questions for each quiz are randomly selected from its respective lecture-question pool each having 15 to 25 questions in multiple-choice, true-false, and multiple-select formats.

**Lecture quizzes have “friendly reminder” soft due dates as prompts to keep from falling more than one week behind the Recommended Pace.** Submitting a quiz after a due date has passed will generate a message that the quiz was submitted late so many hours or days past the due date. However, doing so incurs no penalty.

Lecture quiz end-dates of availability coincide with the end dates for their respective exams. The end dates for quizzes 1-7 and 6-15 are firm; they cannot be reopened.

**Quizzes 1-7 Feb 21 Quizzes 8-15 Apr 3 Quizzes 16-23 Apr 26**

For quizzes 1-7 and 8-15, respective make-up opportunities for half credit are available through the end of the semester. Quizzes 16-23 remain open for full credit through the end dates above.

Seasonal-Care Review Quizzes

The last three quizzes, Fall Care, Spring Care, and Summer Care can be critical for your final grade. They become **available in the last weekly module at semester’s end** and are there to reinforce basic concepts. Nearly all the material found in the videos that comprise the three parts of the Seasonal Care module will have been covered in previous lectures. In that sense, the module is a review of key concepts. As with other quizzes, you have to work through the material in order for the quizzes to become visible.

**THERE IS ONLY ONE ATTEMPT ALLOWED** for each quiz worth 5 points each. Each quiz has five questions and double the time limits of the lecture quizzes. **If at the end of the semester you are short a few points of the grade you were hoping for, then more than likely critical points were lost because you did not study the videos enough (or even look at) in order to answer the quizzes’ relatively easy questions.**

Practice Tests (in Practice Tests module and under Assessments tab)

Practice tests, which **do not count for a grade**, are compilations of randomly drawn questions from the quiz pools plus some multiple select, matching and ordering questions included for further exam preparation. The proportion of questions i(in Practice Tests module and under Assessments tab)s equal that from each lecture as shown on the Exams Preview document in the Exams module under the Content tab. Practice tests have 20 questions with a 20-minute time limit that mimics the one question-per-minute pace of an exam. They can be taken multiple times. Once open practice tests remain open, and in this way questions from closed quizzes can still be viewed.

Each question is labeled as to the lecture where you can find the answer, which makes practice tests an excellent way to review for exams, For example, if you’re missing turf ID questions, then review Lectures 5A and 5B.

**Note: Please take care to not inadvertently open an actual exam if you are intending to take a practice test. If you do, then immediately call 517-432-6200 option 2 and explain what happened.**

Exams (in Exams module and under Assessments tab)

**One submission is allowed for each exam part. If you experience technical difficulty during an attempt, then call 432-2100 press 2 and explain your situation. It Is advisable to clear your browser's cache and cookies before starting exams to avoid slowdowns.**

Exam dates appear in the Calendar Showing Open and End Dates in the Schedules module under Content. The extended period that exams are open are shown below.

**First Exam (1 Part): January 31 – February 21**

**Second Exam (2 Parts): February 28 – April 3**

**Final Exam (3 Parts): March 27 – April 26**

Note: Course Evaluation must be completed and submitted in order for Part 3 of the Final Exam to become viewable.

**Exams are comprehensive, which means they each cover all material to date.** They are difficult in that they challenge the student’s understanding of the materials and concepts rather than being wholly dependent upon being able to recognize and correctly answer questions identical to what may have been on a quiz or practice tests.

Exams are “open book”, since there’s no mechanism for keeping students from viewing course materials during an exam. However, this does not mean they are group exams (see Academic Integrity above).

The First Exam has 40 questions, the Second Exam has 60 questions, and the Final Exam has 80 questions. The Second Exam is split into two parts, and the Final Exam is split into three parts. **Exam parts do not have to be taken sequentially or at the same time, or even on the same day.** Just make sure to take them all before the exam period expires.

**A little less than half of the questions are identical to those that can appear on the lecture quizzes.** Formats are the same as for quizzes, i.e., multiple choice and true or false. The practice tests include multiple select, ordering, and matching questions for more in-depth preparation.

The number of questions from each lecture is shown on the Exams Preview document in the Exams module under the Content tab.

**Exams can only be taken late if extraordinary and documentable situations arise. Every effort must be made to INFORM THE INSTRUCTOR PRIOR TO THE END DATE.** Otherwise, missed exams (all or any part) can be made up for half-credit (see Make-Up Policy below).

**If you less than ideal internet access, you are advised to not wait until the last few days to take exams (and post/reply in forum).**

It is also recommended that you **clear your browser’s cache and cookies before starting any exams.** The Help Desk can show you how.

**On the second day after an exam is due, and on that day only, you can see the questions you missed.** The correct answers can be found in the lectures. If you still don’t understand what the right answer should have been, then feel free to email the instructor.

Any other questions or comments about an exam should be posted in its respective informational forum found in Discussions under the Communications tab. After the exam ends, do not post anything that reflects what questions were in it. Feel free to email the instructor for exam-answer clarification.

Makeup Policy

Exams and their respective quizzes can be made up for half credit.

**FORUMS CANNOT BE MADE UP – no exceptions!**

However, the instructor will work to accommodate those students who have complied with the university’s Grief Absence Policy or Religious Observance Policy, Additionally, verifiable documentation of illness or accident should be attached to emails that request being able to take quizzes and/or exams late but for full credit.

Email

Make sure D2L emails are auto forwarded to your regular account. To do this, click name in upper right corner → Account Settings → Email tab → check Forward box, enter address, and scroll down to Forwarding Options. Click Forward and mark unread in the Inbox folder.

Please email the instructor as soon as possible if you note that a lecture, quiz, forum, or exam doesn’t open as expected. The instructor will correct the oversight and thank you for your email as soon as he can. For other help, contact IT Services at 517-432-6200 option 2 or [ithelp@msu.edu](mailto:ithelp@msu.edu).

The instructor responds to students’ emails in an orderly fashion. If it takes a while, then the instructor was either indisposed or contemplating how best to formulate an appropriate reply. Questions that can be answered by reading this syllabus may not get a reply.

* **Emails that ask for special consideration regarding final grades will be ignored.**

Email Reminders

As a courtesy, emails are sent to students to remind them of approaching end dates if they have not yet completed an assignment, or in the case with discussions, they have not yet received a grade. Remember, discussions are graded on Monday mornings. The instructor is not obligated to provide such reminders, since the information is plainly provided in the Calendar Showing Open and Close Dates in the Schedules module, as well as on the course homepage. **Not receiving such emails (for technical or other reasons) does not excuse a student from having to adhere to end dates.** Exceptions do not apply if an email is delayed by a software glitch (it happens).

Extra Credit – **NONE AVAILABLE**

Since extra credit opportunities would have to be extended to all students, they are impractical for this large enrollment class. As is, there are multiple easy opportunities for students to increase their total number of earned points.

Drops

The instructor is not involved if you want to drop the course. The last day to do so with any applicable refund can be found by clicking on the section number in the Schedule of Courses. The last day with no grade reported is the middle of the semester, and the exact date can be identified the same way as above. After that, you should work with your advisor if you desire an exception to either of the above. If you do drop, then it is recommended that you keep a record of it, since the instructor is required to submit a grade for all students that appear on the class list at semester’s end. Answers to questions about the university’s policies on refunds and drops can be found at [Late Drops FAQ.](https://reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/EnrReg/Lateadds.aspx)

In order to comply with the university policy on [non attendance](https://reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/Attendance.aspx), **an Administrative Drop may occur for any student who has shown minimal activity in the course. To avoid being dropped for nonattendance, a student must have at least earned some points by the First Exam end date.**

Honors Option (not available)

The very large class size precludes this, since it would have to be offered to all Honors College students taking the course, which could create the potential need for too many proposals and assignments, with most of the latter invariably submitted right at the end of the semester, and the instructor just couldn't handle it -- sorry.

Enhancing Academic Success Early (EASE)

The instructor uses this early warning system intended to alert certain students (some required) as to their poor performance right after the end dates for each of the first two exams. Reporting of point-in-time progress is required for a specified criteria of students such as those on academic probation or on athletic scholarships, as well as other subsets not known to the instructor, regardless of their grades. Grades of 2.5 and lower will be reported for any other student, as well.

The tables use for reporting grades via EASE will be displayed as timely announcements on the course homepage. Upon report submission, a student and their respective advisor(s) receive an email from the Registrar with the point-in-time grade and any appropriate comments.

**Grades reported via EASE are transient and do not appear on a student's transcript.**

Credit or Non-Credit Option

The course may be taken on a CR-NC grading scale, since it is not a required course for any major. Mid-semester is the last day to opt in. Those who have a grade of 2.5 or lower, will receive an EASE grade just before mid-semester (see above). Those with higher grades will need to consult the EASE chart shown on the homepage during that time.

Instructors are not involved in this process and are not made aware of those who choose. This instructor doesn’t know how to do it, but your advisor does. The whole thing is explained here [The Credit-Non Credit System](https://reg.msu.edu/academicprograms/Print.aspx?Section=523).

Academic Integrity

[Article 2](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/academic-freedom-for-students-at-michigan-state-university/article-2-academic-rights-and-responsibilities) of the [Student Rights and Responsibilities](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/academic-freedom-for-students-at-michigan-state-university/article-2-academic-rights-and-responsibilities) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards."

In addition, this course adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations.  (See [Spartan Life Online](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/))

Monitoring online courses is a challenge, especially limiting academic dishonesty. However, the university is working to utilize more sophisticated technologies that detect academic dishonesty.

For example, two or more students taking quizzes or exams from the same IP address could indicate that a student is not doing his or her own work. In addition, students who demonstrate a pattern of submitting quizzes or exams closely together could be evidence that students are working in groups when taking them. IT Services investigates suspicious activities.

Therefore, all students are expected to complete each course assignment without assistance from any other person. Students who violate MSU rules may receive a penalty grade, including but not limited to a failing grade on the assignment in question or in the course.

As members of a learning community, students are expected to respect the intellectual property of course instructors. All course materials presented to students are the property of the course instructor. Students may retain copies of said materials but are not to forward them to other persons or distribute them otherwise. Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions.

**Students suspected of posting screen shots of quiz questions or otherwise supplying information on websites that foster cheating will be reported to the Office of the Provost.**

Student leaders have recognized the challenging task of discouraging plagiarism from the academic community. The Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) is proud to be continuing awareness of the **Spartan Code of Honor** academic pledge, focused on valuing academic integrity and honest work ethics at Michigan State University. The pledge reads as follows:

*As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will* *practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing* *that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a* *student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal* *integrity in all that I do.*

The Spartan Code of Honor academic pledge embodies the principles of integrity that every Spartan is required to uphold in their time as a student, and beyond. The academic pledge was crafted with inspiration of existing individual college honor codes, establishing an overarching statement for the entire university.

The instructor adheres to the university’s [Code of Teaching Responsibility](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/regulations/selected/code-of-teaching-responsibility) as it applies to online courses and in particular to this course.

Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities

The instructor is committed to providing equal opportunity or participation in all programs, services, and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-7237 or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once a student’s eligibility for an accommodation has been confirmed, he or she will be issued an Accommodation Letter (formerly VISA) or a Verified Individual Services Accommodation (VISA) form or a Temporary Adjustment Letter (formerly VISTA).

**Such credentials should be sent at the beginning of the semester,** or as soon as you decide that their implementation is needed going forward in this course. **If you choose to submit your form later, then accommodations are not retroactive,** since they are only implemented from that point in the course forward.The instructor’s response time in implementing such requests may lengthen as the course progresses.

The RCPD has ruled that “online discussions seem to be effectively the equivalent to an in-class discussion and would thus not be, in our minds, the same as a special need around a finite testing or special assignment. They are also prolonged so disability issues can be self-adjusted over the extended and lenient posting periods." **Consequently, forums cannot be made up.**

Grief Absences

Students seeking a grief absence should work through their academic advisor to complete and submit a [Grief Absence Request Form](https://reg.msu.edu/StuForms/Stuinfo/GriefAbsenceForm.aspx) found under the Student Resources tab on the Registrar’s homepage.

Once completed, the information is routed to the Associate Dean of the student`s college and must be received prior to the student leaving campus. Instructors are subsequently notified in, so **there is no need to send a copy of the grief form to an instructor.** Any further questions should be directed to your academic advisor.

The student will receive a confidential message confirming the submission and reminding them that supporting documentation must be provided and who to send it to. In addition, the appropriate dean`s office will be notified that a request has been submitted. Once the appropriate administrator has either approved or denied the request, the student will again receive a confidential message notifying them of the decision of the dean`s office. If approved, the instructor will be notified by the appropriate dean`s office. Following the period of excused absence, email the instructor as to the end dates that you missed, and he will reset them accordingly.

Religious Observances

The instructor is sensitive to these observance so that students who absent themselves from classes on these days are not seriously disadvantaged. This understanding is reflected in the appreciable number of days that all gradebook items are available. If such accommodations are still not working out for you, then it is your responsibility to make arrangements in advance with the instructor.

Requests for Letters of Recommendation

The lack of face-to-face interaction in this online course disallows the instructor from offering a favorable opinion as to student’s probability for future successes. Therefore, any such requests will be respectfully denied.

Evaluation by Students

Michigan State University takes seriously the opinion of students in the evaluation of the effectiveness of instruction and has implemented the

Student Perceptions of Learning Survey (SPLS) formerly SIRS (Student Instructional Rating System) process to gather student feedback. Toward the end of the semester, students will receive an email notification with a link to the SPLS online survey for this course. **This SPLS** **link is only active during the last five days of the course.**

Students will have the option on the online SPLS form to decline to participate in the evaluation of the course. However, the instructor hopes that students will be willing to provide frank and constructive feedback so that he may instruct students even better in the future.

Later, the instructor and the instructor’s departmental chair will receive a compilation of the SPLS ratings along with students’ anonymous comments.

There is an additional course evaluation that must be completed before Part 3 of the Final Exam can be taken. This is also an anonymous survey that is different in that it has directed questions that the instructor uses to improve the course going forward.

Let’s Get Going! Work through these in sequential order.

1. Getting Started (w/ Syllabus) module under Content
   1. CSS 202 Syllabus
   2. Course Introduction
   3. Dos and Dont's
2. Schedules module under Content
   1. Recommended Pace
   2. Calendar Showing Opening and Closing Dates
   3. Guide to Learning Course Objectives
   4. Forums with Respective Topics and Lectures
   5. Exam Previews
3. Course Intro Quiz module under Content – must score 10/10 before you can move into Week 1 Lecture 1 module.
4. Student Questionnaire module under Content

**For further assistance with any of the above, contact IT Services at 517-432-6200 opt 2 or chat** [**ithelp@msu.edu**](mailto:ithelp@msu.edu)**.**

Lecture Topics with Respective Forums

Lecture Topic Forum

1 Course and Subject Introduction 1

2 Turfgrass Growth and Development 1

3 Soils Primer 1

4 Species Primer 1

5A Warm-Season Turfgrass Identification 2

5B Cool-Season Turfgrass Identification 2

6 Turfgrass Adaptations to Macroenvironments 2

7 Turfgrass Adaptations to Microenvironments 2

8 Turfgrass Establishment I 3

9 Turfgrass Establishment II 3

10 Mowing 3

11 Nutrients and Fertilizers 3

12 Fertilizer Rates and Applications 4

13 Pests and Pest Management 4

14 Weed Management 4

15 Insect Management 4

16 Disease Management 5

17 Irrigation 5

18 Cultivation 5

19 Benefits of Turf 5

20 Liability and Safety 6

21 Golf Courses 6

22 Athletic Fields 6

23 Professional Lawn Care 6