

## SEQ CHAPTER COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number: HORT 4930

Course Title: Directed Study (Trial garden) Professor: Dr. J. Raymond Kessler, Jr.

Credit Hours: (3) Office: 113 Funchess Hall

Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing in Horticulture as a major. Phone: 334-844-3055  
E-mail: kessljr@auburn.edu

Co-requisites: None

The Auburn University Oath of Honor: "In Accordance with those virtues of Honesty and Truthfulness set forth in the Auburn Creed, I, as a student and fellow member of the Auburn Family, do hereby pledge that all work is my own, achieved through personal merit and without any unauthorized aid. In the promotion of integrity, and for the betterment of Auburn, I give honor to this, my oath and obligation."

### Course objectives

Undergraduate junior or senior level instruction related to research for students well into their major in Horticulture that provides an in-depth investigation into a particular subject on a one-to-one basis with faculty.

Horticulture is an applied art and science. As such, this Directed Study is designed to give the student hands-on experience with the practice and application of Horticulture. The topic of the Directed Study will be discussed and agreed upon by the student and professor prior to registering for the class.

### Course content

Teaching-learning process: This course involves a hands-on project conducted by the student in a greenhouse or in the field growing flowering herbaceous plants. The student will be growing bedding plants from seed or rooted cuttings as part of the Auburn University, All American Display trial garden located on the Auburn University campus at the corner of South Donahue Drive and Woodfield Drive, at the North Alabama Horticultural Substation in Cullman, AL, and at the Chilton Regional Research and Extension Center in Clanton, AL. The program receives over 300 bedding plant seeds or cuttings from national and international breeding companies to determine landscape performance for spring and fall planting in Alabama. The plants will be started at the Paterson Greenhouse facility. The student will sow the seed, grow them to size in seedling flats, transplant them into market flats, and grow them to a size ready to be planted in the outdoor trial gardens. The student will also assist my graduate student in laying-out and planting the outdoor trial on the Auburn University campus at the end of the semester. Trials of other categories of herbaceous ornamental plants may include herbaceous perennials, bulbs, herbs, or ornamental grasses.

Proposed schedule of meetings: During this project, the student will receive instruction on correct greenhouse growing practices for each plant species, and must keep detailed records of cultural information on every aspect of the production process. I will meet with the student once a week during the semester for instruction and check on progress in the greenhouse during the week. Unlike conventional classes, this class requires discipline on the part of the student to take charge of the project and to

check the plant's cultural needs once a day, Monday through Friday. The greenhouse crew will care for the plants on Saturday and Sunday and on official University holidays. Timely care is crucial to the students success in this class!

Work products: The student will be graded for the level of care provided the plants during the semester. I will provide an outline for the cultural records you must record on every crop. This cultural record must be turned in to me on the last day of the semester for grading in a bound notebook form.

Grading criteria: 70% of the final grade will be based on the level of care provided the crops and the quality of the product, 30% of the final grade will be based on the accuracy and completeness of the cultural record.

Textbook or assigned readings: Variable according to student interests and faculty needs.

Special Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students who need special accommodations should make an appointment to discuss the Accommodation Memo during my office hours as soon as possible. If scheduled office hours conflict with classes, please arrange an alternative appointment time. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo but need special accommodations, contact The Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, (334) 844-5943 (Voice T/O). Students certified as disabled by Kelly Haynes' shop and needing accommodation should see me in my office prior to the third week of class.

Academic Honesty: All portions of the auburn university honesty code (title XII) found in the tiger cub will apply in this class.

Auburn University Excuse Policy: Please contact me immediately if a problem should arise that would prevent you from fulfilling the responsibilities of the class. I will hold students responsible to follow the following University accepted excuses:

Illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student's immediate family. The instructor shall have the right to request appropriate verification.

The death of a member of the student's immediate family. The instructor shall have the right to request appropriate verification.

Trips for members of the student organizations sponsored by an academic unit, trips for University classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events. When feasible, the student must notify the instructor prior to the occurrence of such absences, but in no case shall such notification occur more than one week after the absence. Instructors may request formal notification from appropriate University personnel to document the student's participation in such trips.

Religious holidays. Students are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays.

Subpoena for court appearance.

Any other reason the instructor deems appropriate.