School of Natural Resource Science Seminar Fall 2011
SOIL 491/790 & RNG 491/790; 1 credit
Meeting Wednesday at 12:00 noon to 12:50 pm in Walster 220

Instructors:
Dr. Amitava Chatterjee (Soils) Amitava.Chatterjee@ndsu.edu 231-7858
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Course objectives:

1. Learn how to give an effective scientific research presentation by going through the process of giving your own seminar and by being an attentive participant in the seminars of professional scientists and other students.
2. Improve your ability to give critical yet constructive feedback on scientific presentations.

Grading Scheme: Based on 100 points where ≥90=A; 89–80=B; 79–70=C; 69–60=D; <60=F (see attached assessment form)

Evaluation Criteria:

***Attendance*:** Attendance of **all** (i.e., faculty and student) seminars is mandatory.

1. Seminar Attendance: You will fill out an evaluation form for each seminar, which will indicate your attendance and your thoughtful, constructive feedback on the seminar.
2. Practice Seminar Attendance: Every student is encouraged to attend other students' practice seminar; however, it is mandatory that you attend the practice seminar of the student(s) presenting immediately before you.

***Communication*:**

3. Scheduling Practice Seminar: You are responsible for scheduling a practice seminar at least 5 days before your actual seminar. You should coordinate this practice seminar so that your advisor, the student(s) presenting immediately after you, and at least one of the instructors (Don, Larry, or Janet) will attend. The online scheduling tool www.doodle.com may be used to help coordinate everyone's schedules.
4. Advertising Your Seminar: You are responsible for announcing your seminar to the School of Natural Resources Sciences, your graduate advisor, members of your graduate committee, and to anyone else that might be interested in your presentation. An email should be sent to all SNRS faculty, staff, and graduate students on the Monday of the week your seminar is given. Contact Pam Loose (pam.loose@ndsu.edu) to obtain needed email addresses. Also, you must create and print flyers for your seminar and post them on NRM, Entomology, Soils, and Range bulletin boards. **Graduate students should include their abstract in these communications.**

***Abstract*:** 790 students *only*

5. All Graduate Students (790 registrants) will write an abstract for their presentation, which is due to the instructors at least 5 days before they present. The sample abstract below is from the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Publication Style Handbook which is located at https://www.soils.org/publications/style. Other helpful information on scientific writing is also located in this style guide.

6. ***Instructor Evaluation of Seminar*:** The instructors will meet together after each seminar and confer to provide a subjective evaluation of your seminar.

Calendar of events:
To be determined.

Americans with disabilities statement about students with special needs:
Any students with disabilities or other special needs, who need special accommodations in this course are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:
All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with the NDSU Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct as cited in SECTION 335: CODE OF ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND CONDUCT (http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm).
If a student violates the Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct, then the student will be presented to College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resource's Honor Commission (http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/academics/honorsys.htm). The instructors will implement the advice of the Honor Commission if disciplinary actions are required.

Sample abstract (do not include section headings listed to the left of this example)

Dryland Grain Sorghum Water Use, Light Interception, and Growth Responses to Planting Geometry
J.L. Steiner

ABSTRACT

Rationale Objectives / hypothesis Methods	Crop yields are primarily water-limited under dryland production systems in semiarid regions. This study was conducted to determine whether the growing-season water balance could be manipulated through planting geometry. The effects of row spacing, row direction, and plant population on the water use, light interception, and growth of grain sorghum [Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench] were investigated at Bushland, TX, on a Pullman clay loam (fine, mixed, superactive thermic Torrertic Paleustoll). In 1983, which had a dry growing season, narrow-row spacing and higher population increased seasonal evapotranspiration (ET) by 7 and 9%, respectively, and shifted the partitioning of ET to the vegetative period. Medium population crops yielded 6.2 and 2.3 Mg ha–1 of dry matter and grain, respectively. High population resulted in high dry matter (6.1 Mg ha–1) and low grain yield (1.6 Mg ha–1), whereas low population resulted in low dry matter (5.4 Mg ha–1) and high grain yield (2.3 Mg ha–1). Row direction did not affect water use or yield. In 1984, dry matter production for a given amount of ET and light interception was higher in the narrow-row crops.
Results	
Conclusion(s) /implications	Evapotranspiration was less for a given amount of light interception in the narrow-row crops and in the north–south row crops. Narrow-row planting geometry appears to increase the partitioning of ET to the transpiration component and may improve the efficiency of dryland cropping systems.