

Controlled Environment Agriculture Systems Design

ABE4320

Credits: 3

Class Periods: MWF, 3rd period, from 9:35 AM to 10:25 AM

Location: 283 Frazier Rogers Hall

Academic Term: Spring 2025

Instructor

Ying Zhang

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Office Phone: (352)294-6864

Office Hours: MW 7th & 8th periods, from 1:55 pm to 3:50 pm, Frazier Rogers Hall room 103

When contacting the instructor, please allow up to 48 hours for a response, not including weekends or holidays.

Course Description

An introduction to the engineering design of controlled environment agriculture systems, including glazing materials selection, fan sizing for mechanical ventilation, lighting distribution, cooling system design with fan-and-pad evaporative cooling, and heating system design with hot water floor heating.

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

MAC1147 Precalculus Algebra and Trigonometry and 3 credits of physics

Course Objectives

This is an elective course. Students, upon completing this course, will be able to:

- a. Describe environmental factors that affect plant growth and development under controlled environment
- b. Explain how agricultural structures affect the energy balance of controlled environment systems
- c. Apply the principles of HVAC design and analysis for equipment selection, system sizing and system design.
- d. Identify and quantify system elements in the design of controlled environment systems
- e. Design a controlled environment system to meet desired needs within realistic constraints.

Contribution of course to meeting the professional component for ABET

Contributes 3 credit hours toward meeting the minimum 48 credit hours of Engineering Topics in the basic-level curriculum for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Engineering.

1. An ability to identify, formulate, and solve complex engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science, and mathematics (High)
2. An ability to apply engineering design to produce solutions that meet specified needs with consideration of public health, safety, and welfare, as well as global, cultural, social, environmental, and economic factors (Low)
3. An ability to communicate effectively with a range of audiences (Low)
4. An ability to recognize ethical and professional responsibilities in engineering situations and make informed judgments, which must consider the impact of engineering solutions in global, economic, environmental, and societal contexts (High)

5. An ability to function effectively on a team whose members together provide leadership, create a collaborative and inclusive environment, establish goals, plan tasks, and meet objectives (Medium)

6. An ability to develop and conduct appropriate experimentation, analyze and interpret data, and use engineering judgment to draw conclusions (High)

7. An ability to acquire and apply new knowledge as needed, using appropriate learning strategies (Medium)

Materials and Supply Fees

Not Applicable

Required Textbooks and Software

Handouts and online material will be provided to students.

Recommended Materials

- Greenhouse Operation and Management
- Paul V. Nelson
- 2011, 7th Edition
- ISBN number: 978-0132439367

Course Schedule

Week 1: Overview of controlled environment agriculture systems and SI units/**Reading Assignment 1**
Week 2: Plant responses to environmental factors/**Quiz 1/ Reading Assignment 2**
Week 3: Psychrometrics/**Homework 1/ Reading Assignment 3**
Week 4: Design of structures/**Quiz 2/ Reading Assignment 4**
Week 5: Shading and solar radiation/**Homework 2/ Reading Assignment 5**
Week 6: Irrigation and fertigation systems/**Quiz 3/ Reading Assignment 6**
Week 7: Heating systems/**Homework 3/ Reading Assignment 7**
Week 8: Review/ Greenhouse tours/**Exam 1/ Reading Assignment 7**
Week 9: Cooling and ventilation/**Homework 4/ Reading Assignment 8**
Week 10: Root substrate/**Quiz 4/ Reading Assignment 9**
Week 11: Lighting designs and CO₂ enrichment/**Homework 5/ Reading Assignment 10**
Week 12: Pest management and insect screens/**Quiz 5/ Reading Assignment 11**
Week 13: Sensing and climate control/**Homework 6/ Reading Assignment 12**
Week 14: Postharvest and food security/**Quiz 6/ Reading Assignment 13**
Week 15: Renewable energy applications/Review
Finals Week: **Exam 2**

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

Attendance. Attendance (on time) at lectures is expected from all students at all times and will be recorded at every class meeting. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance>) and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Late Submission of Course Work. All course work (including, but not limited to: assignments, quizzes, exams, and term projects) must be submitted no later than the due date unless prior arrangements are made with the mentor and a new due date is established. Assignments submitted late without having made arrangements with the mentor, but before 5:00 PM on the day following the due date, will be marked down 10 points. Assignments returned late, before 5:00 PM on the second day following the due date will be marked down 50 points. Students with documented evidence of an emergency that prevented prior communication with the mentor may present documentation to the mentor for consideration.

Make-up Exams. No make-up exams will be given except for valid excused absences explained in Attendance or unless prior arrangements have been made.

In-Class Recording. Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Online Course Recording. Our class sessions will be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Evaluation of Grades

Both undergraduate and graduate levels are included in this class. In addition to the assignments of attendance, homework sets, quizzes, two exams, graduate students are required to complete a solo project where they design and size system components in a greenhouse, plant factory, or other facility that produces crops in a controlled environment. The scheme of grades evaluation for the undergraduate level is as follows:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Percentage of Final Grade</i>
Attendance	3 each	10%
Homework Sets (6)	100 each	20%
Quizzes (6)	100 each	20%
Exam 1	100	25%
Exam 2	100	25%
		100%

Attendance (100 pts. each). Attendance (on time) at lectures is expected from all students at all times and will be recorded at every class meeting with a sign-in sheet. The attendance score for each student will be calculated according to the missed percentage of the class meetings without excused absences. Attendance will be weighted at 10% for the final course grade.

Homework Assignments (100 pts. each). Each homework assignment will be worth 100 points and there will be six homework assignments during the semester. **Homework assignments will become available on Friday at 12:00 PM, and they will be due next Friday at 11:59 pm.** Each student must work individually. For the final course grade, homework assignments will be weighted at 20%.

Quizzes (100 pts. each). Each quiz will be worth 100 points and there will be six quizzes during the semester. **Quizzes will become available on Friday at 12:00 PM, and they will be due next Friday at 11:59 pm.** Each quiz will be timed to 120 minutes, and it can only be taken once. Each quiz will consist of a mix of multiple-choice, true false, as well as short, open-ended, essay-style questions. Students can refer to personal notes, websites, or any reference materials to complete the quiz. However, each student must work individually. For the final course grade, quizzes will be weighted at 20%.

Exams (100 pts. each). In exams, students will be asked to analyze different production systems using engineering principles. Each exam will consist of a mix of multiple-choice, short-answer, and computational questions. For the final course grade, each exam will be weighted at 25%.

Grading Policy

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
90.0 - 100.0	A	4.00
87.0 - 89.9	A-	3.67
84.0 - 86.9	B+	3.33
81.0 - 83.9	B	3.00
78.0 - 80.9	B-	2.67
75.0 - 79.9	C+	2.33
72.0 - 74.9	C	2.00
69.0 - 71.9	C-	1.67
66.0 - 68.9	D+	1.33
63.0 - 65.9	D	1.00
60.0 - 62.9	D-	0.67
0 - 59.9	E	0.00

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.