

Western Illinois University – School of Agriculture
AGTM 472: Agricultural Analysis & Decision-Making (3)
Course Syllabus – Spring 2025 “Subject to Change”

Course Meets: M/W 9:00 – 9:50 am in KH 307 T 8:00 – 9:50 am in KH 307/KH 106/KH 3XX
Required Text: TBD
Instructor: **Dr. Daniel Atherton** **E-mail:** DL-Atherton@wiu.edu
Office: B 22 Knoblauch Hall **Office Phone:** 309-298-2395
Office Hours: M / W: 10:00 - 10:50 am; T: 10:00 – 11:50 am or by appointment

Course Description: Course presents methods for analysis of agricultural data to facilitate data-driven decision making for precision agriculture. Some topics include: map scale and projection, coordinate systems, soil nutrient maps, yield maps, interpolation and analysis methods, and creation of prescription maps.

Course Objectives:

- Identify principles of GPS including factors affecting accuracy and differential correction for GPS
- Distinguish principles of map scale and projection and coordinate systems
- Recognize methods for taking soil samples for development of soil nutrient maps
- Discriminate dataset analysis techniques like indices, principal component analysis, and cluster analysis
- Analyze ag. data using applications like Farmworks or IFARM to make sound, data-driven decisions
- Formulate standard and custom prescription maps to vary inputs according to decisions made

Attendance: If at any time you miss the lecture or lab, please use the OARS system to report your absence (www.wiu.edu/oars). I will need the email generated from this system prior to class and not after. If I receive the email after class has ended then the late grade policies come into effect. It is the student’s responsibility to coordinate with the instructor to make up missed work. Quizzes may be given at any time and no makeup quizzes will be given unless the instructor approves the absence prior to missing class.

Quality of Work Policy: All assignments should be word processed with title of assignment, name, date, and a summary of the assignment included at the beginning of the assignment. Run spell-checker. If completing multiple-step problems, show all work. Your work should be neat and orderly.

Academic Dishonesty: <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

Any violation of the Academic Dishonesty Policy in Student Handbook will result in an automatic failure in the course. Plagiarism and cheating are areas of concern for this course. This course is designed to enhance your writing and presentation skills within your academic area, not the ability to copy other’s thoughts and ideas.

Late Assignments: No late assignments will be accepted unless instructor approves of turning in an assignment late prior to assignment’s due date. Assignments will be due at the beginning of class on their due date. Hand written assignments will not be accepted unless instructed otherwise. Assignments will be 12 point font with 1” margins. Points will be deducted for incorrect spelling and grammar.

Students Rights and Responsibilities: <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>

Disruptive Student Behavior: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/disrupst.php>

Assessment and Grading: Your final grade is based on your overall weighted percent of the following:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Exam 1 (Ch. 1)	15%
Exam 2 (Ch. 2, 3, and 4)	20%
Exam 3 (Ch. 6)	10% * Note: No exam for Ch. 5
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	25%
Presentations/Papers	15% (presentation/paper)
Homework & Quizzes	15% (Attendance included)

Grading Scale

A	93 – 100%	A-	90 – 92%	B+	87 – 89%	B	83 – 86%
B-	80 – 82%	C+	77 – 79%	C	73 – 76%	C-	70 – 72%
D+	67 – 69%	D	63 – 66%	D-	60 – 62%	F	< 60%

Final Grades: Unless a computational error was made, grades will not be changed after the end of the semester. Please do not come to the instructor with “extenuating circumstances” for why your grade should be changed – the semester grade represents the level of work you completed over the semester.

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX>.

ADA Compliance: “In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. For the instructor to provide the proper accommodation(s) you must obtain documentation of the need for an accommodation through Disability Resource Center (DRC) and provide it to the instructor. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire about such particular needs of students. Students who may require special assistance in emergency evacuations (i.e. fire, tornado, etc.) should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. Contact Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 298-2512 for additional services.”

Attention Education Majors: The changes within the Illinois State Teaching License requirements, students are required to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet state requirements. With the university's +/- grading system, receiving a grade below a "C-" will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet School of Agriculture graduation requirements.

Professional Learning Environment: Please be respectful of your fellow students and the instructor and do your part to maintain the professional learning environment of this course. **Please silence your cell phones. Avoid texting during class.** Individual disruptions, such as **entering the classroom late, allowing your cell phone to ring audibly, engaging in unrelated activities** (e.g., **texting or surfing the web**) during class time, or **packing your belongings before class ends**, distract other students and detract from the quality of the learning environment for the whole class. Infractions will be noted and your class participation grade will suffer. The instructor reserves the right to ask for cell phones to be returned to students after the class period or to remove from group work a student who is demonstrating inadequate levels of participation.

Tentative Schedule * Scheduling and weekly topics are subject to change at instructor's discretion *****

Dates	Topics
Week 1 (Jan. 13 - 17)	Course Intro., requirements; Unit Conversions
Week 2 (Jan. 20 - 24)	Holiday – No Class; Unit Conversions; Ag Statistics
Week 3 (Jan. 27 - 31)	Ag Statistics
Week 4 (Feb. 3 - 7)	Ag Statistics; Exam 1 Review
Week 5 (Feb. 10 - 14)	Holiday – No Class; Exam 1; Advanced Ag Statistics
Week 6 (Feb. 17 - 21)	Advanced Ag Statistics; Ch. 5 – F/W software (Tues.)
Week 7 (Feb. 24 - 28)	OOT – No Class; Accuracy Assess. & Ch. Det.; Ch. 5 – F/W software (Tues.)
Week 8 (Mar. 3 - 7)	Adv. Supervised & Unsupervised; Ch. 5 – F/W software (Tues.)
Week 9 (Mar. 10 - 14)	Spring Break – No Class
Week 10 (Mar. 17 - 21)	Adv. Supervised & Unsupervised; Exam 2 Review; Ch. 5 – F/W software (Tues.)
Week 11 (Mar. 24 - 28)	Exam 2; Ch. 5 – F/W software (Tues.); OOT – No Class
Week 12 (Mar. 31 - 04)	DSSAT
Week 13 (Apr. 7 - 11)	DSSAT
Week 14 (Apr. 14 - 18)	DSSAT; OOT – No Class
Week 15 (Apr. 21 - 25)	Review for Exam 3; DSSAT; Exam 3
Week 16 (Apr. 28 – 02)	Presentations; Review for Final Exam

Final Exam – KH 307, Wednesday, May 7th 8:00 – 9:50 am