Reader's Guide to the Catalog

How to Read Catalog Course Descriptions

Texas Tech offers more than 5,000 courses as part of its curriculum. These courses are listed alphabetically by subject prefix (see prefix listing on next page) within each college and departmental section of this catalog. The courses appear in numerical order, moving from beginning freshman or developmental-level courses to graduate, research, and professional courses.

Not all courses listed in this catalog are offered every year. An online class schedule published before each registration period indicates courses that will be available during the upcoming term or semester and when each class will meet. Visit www.depts.ttu.edu/officialpublications/class_schedule/index.php to see the class schedule. The university reserves the right to cancel any scheduled course or withdraw any program from the list of offerings when the best interests of the institution require such action.

Courses are designated by a subject prefix and number along with a descriptive title. The following illustration may help readers better interpret the course descriptions found throughout this publication.

Subject prefix – Indicates course subject (BOT = Botany). See subject prefixes on next page.

Course title – Number in parentheses (3) denotes hours of semester credit earned. When the letter V precedes the numbers (e.g., V1-6), this indicates the class is a variable credit course. Such courses are ordinarily research courses and permit enrollment for any number of hours up to the limit indicated by the second number in the parentheses.

Course prefix and numbers in brackets – Identify this course as part of the Texas Common Course Numbering System that facilitates transfer between Texas colleges and universities (see page 28).

First digit in course number – Indicates the academic level of the course. The course in this example is a sophomore-level course. First digits of 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicate that the course is primarily designed for the freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year, respectively. Developmental courses begin with "0" (e.g., MATH 0301). A number of 5 or above designates a graduate-level course. Graduate standing is a prerequisite for enrollment in all courses numbered in the 5000 series or above and are intended only for graduate students (except for seniors who are within 12 hours of graduation and whose enrollment has been authorized by the Graduate Dean). Although graduate students occasionally enroll in undergraduate courses to fill out deficiencies in their preparation for graduate work, coursework credited toward a graduate degree must, except in rare instances, be of graduate level (5000 series or above).

Second digit in course number – Indicates the semester hour credit of the course. Thus, BOT 2301 would be a sophomore-level course with 3 semester hours of credit.

Last two digits of course number – The distinguishing numbers of the course.

Example: BOT 2301*

2301—Plant Physiology (3). [TCCNS: AGRI1310]
Prerequisites: CHEM 3305 and BIOL 1401 or 1403, 1404.
The physiology of plants with an emphasis on relationships of structure to function in vascular plants. Includes a lab.
F, S. [NRM 3301]

Description of course content

Prerequisites – Some courses have specific prerequisites that must be met before the student can enroll. Before taking the course in this example, the student must have had CHEM 3305 and BIOL 1401 or 1403 or 1404.

Semester of course offering – Some course descriptions indicate when the course is normally taught (F–fall, S–spring, SSI–first summer term, SSII–second summer term; even–taught in even years; odd–taught in odd years).

Course prefix and numbers in brackets after the course when both are at the same level – Cross-listed with an identical course that has a different prefix and is usually offered by a different department. Both courses are taught by the same teacher in the same classroom at the same time.

Example: BOT 4304*

4304—Plant Molecular Biology (3).
Prerequisites: C or better in BIOL 1403 and BIOL 1404.
Molecular analysis of plant metabolism and signaling. S.
[BOT 5304]

Course prefix and numbers in brackets after the course that are at different levels – Tandem courses are specifically for undergraduate and graduate courses in the same department. Tandem courses are taught by the same teacher in the same classroom at the same time.

** Courses used for illustration purposes only; not a course number currently in use by Texas Tech University.*