

Department:

Agriculture

Course Description:

This course will provide an introduction to the basics of beekeeping. The course will cover equipment and supplies necessary for setting up an apiary, appropriate apiary locations, installing a colony of bees, and checking the progress of a colony.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Assemble a complete beehive from pre-made components
2. Demonstrate the proper use of tools and clothing for hive inspection
3. Plan and set four beehives in a location suitable for an apiary
4. Identify sources of acquiring bee colonies and explain their installation into a hive
5. Identify the premature stages of bees
6. Identify the three types of adult bees
7. Identify different types of brood and food cells in a honeycomb
8. Distinguish between queenright and queenless colonies
9. Identify the most common types of hive invaders and diseases and their remedies
10. Demonstrate how to keep accurate records of colony health

Course Content:

- A. Is beekeeping for you?
 1. Time requirements
 2. Startup costs
 3. Allergic reactions to stings
 4. Legal requirements of beekeeping
 5. Suitable locations for bees
- B. Equipment needed
 1. The hive body and assembly
 - a. Bottom board
 - b. Brood chambers and supers
 - c. Inner cover
 - d. Top
 - e. Frames
 - f. Foundations
 - g. Queen excluder
 - h. Feeders
 2. Personal equipment and tools

- a. Veil
 - b. Gloves
 - c. Hive tool
 - d. Smoker
 - e. Spur embedder
- C. Hive placement
1. Well drained location
 2. Protection from winter wind
 3. Ample sunlight
 4. Nearby fresh water source
 5. Seasonal food sources
- D. Acquiring bees and installation into the hive
1. Bee strains
 2. Package bees
 3. Nucleus colonies
 4. Capturing wild swarms
 5. Splitting colonies
 6. Buying complete colonies
- E. Identifying and understanding types of bees
1. Queens
 - a. Characteristics
 - b. Function
 2. Worker bees
 - a. Characteristics
 - b. Function
 3. Drones
 - a. Characteristics
 - b. Function
- F. Checking the progress of a colony
1. The honeybee life cycle
 2. Identifying eggs, larvae, and brood
 3. Identifying queen and drone cells
 4. Warning signs of a weak colony
 - a. No brood
 - b. No queen
 - c. Hive invaders and diseases
 5. Record keeping and hive inspection sheets

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by the use of live demonstrations and oral or written exams.

Instructional Materials:

Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping, Caron, Wicwas Press, 2000.
ISBN-13: 978-1878075093
Various audio-visual materials and handouts.

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

On-Campus Students: At enrollment, any on campus student may complete a form that will allow them to self-identify any disability.

Off-Campus Regional Students: Self-identify your disability and accommodation needs with the Regional Coordinator and/or instructor, preferably prior to the first class meeting.

Online Students: Self-identify your disability and accommodation needs by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator. Students must provide their own programs to allow accessibility on their home computer.

Any student may also identify their disability by completing an online form located on the HCC homepage under Students Services/Resources/Disabilities. Questions should be directed to the Disabilities Coordinator.