PSSC 392 - World Food and Fiber  
Fall 2009  
Chico State University, College of Agriculture

Section 02: TR 3:30-4:45 PM, Plumas 205

Instructor:
Dr. Mitchell M. Johns
College of Agriculture
Plumas 219
California State University – Chico

Telephone: (530) 898-6159  
E-Mail: mjohns@csuchico.edu  
Office hours: M & W 11-12 AM, TR 12-3 PM, or by appointment

Course description: A study and analysis of various world agricultural systems that provide food and fiber. Instructional emphasis will be put on the relevancy of agriculture to students with little agricultural background. A major focus will be on the scientific principles relevant to food and fiber production. The course also addresses historical, environmental, technological, socio-economic, and political factors that are affecting world food and fiber production. The course begins by giving a broad historical perspective on the evolution of agriculture and technology over the world as it has been shaped by domestication of plants and animals, geography, and world population growth. Contemporary topics include malnutrition/starvation in developing countries, climate changes affecting food production, and natural resource constraints to production.

✓ It is an upper division course and approved General Education course in theme G: Global Issues. The course is in the area B (Natural Science) and fulfills the GE Cultural Diversity Global Cultures requirement. This GE course will have an aggregate student writing requirement of 1500 words minimum over multiple class meetings and assignments. The instructor will provide instructional feedback to each student in content and form.

Course objectives: The course is dedicated to helping students:
• To improve reading, writing, speaking, thinking, and analytical research skills.
• To have a greater understanding of the scientific principles that influence food production and the natural world.
• To integrate agriculture and the natural world with their daily lives.
• To broaden their knowledge and awareness of global factors that can be affecting their lives.
• To broaden knowledge regarding cultural diversity in countries and regions distinct from US and European cultures, and be given an opportunity to appreciate global diversity.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: Students will,
• Enhance their reading, research, and writing skills through the writing of a technical research paper, reading assignments, and discussions.
• Learn about the interrelationships between agricultural systems, environment, and cultures.
• Improve their critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making skills through the interaction of science with global issues such as food production, climatic change, natural resource availability, and environmental health.

• Gain knowledge about the contribution of individuals and cultures to agricultural development.

• Learn about science and its applications to world food and fiber production, and environmental health.

Grading policy†, ‡

Three semester exams (10 % each) and final (20 %)

Attendance: 10 % - LESS THAN 50% SEMESTER ATTENDANCE WILL RESULT IN AN SIG. GRADE REDUCTION OR A “F” GRADE

Early essay assignment 15%

Term Paper: 5-7 pages narrative (25 %)

Total = 100%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-95%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>89-85%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>79-75%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>69-65%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>59-55%</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt; 50%</td>
<td>F</td>
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(Percentage rounded to closest whole number)

† Active participation throughout the semester will result in up to a one-letter grade increase in your course grade.

‡ If there is evidence that you have been involved in any form of academic dishonesty, you will receive an “F” grade for the course and a report will be provided to Student Judicial Affairs for further action.

Term Paper Schedule and Requirements

☐ Early short paper due on Thursday September 3, 2009 beginning of class (topic(s) provided).

☐ Term Paper due Thursday November 19, 2009 beginning of class.

☐ Term Papers handed in early will receive the following premium on the paper grade by Thursday November 5, 2009 - + 10%

*****Late papers (1-7 days late) will be penalized -20% off the paper grade. After 7 days the penalty is F or 40% paper grade*****
**Expectations and Policies**

- **Attendance:** Attendance in lecture is mandatory.
- **Exams:** Exams are based on lectures & readings (about 70%); discussions (about 20%); and films (about 10%).
- **Term Paper:** The major paper (Term Paper) will consist of 5-7 pages of written narrative.
- **Course Format:** The course is a combination of lecture series, videos, and discussions. Questions and sharing relevant ideas are encouraged. *Discussion is highly encouraged and welcomed.*

**Students with learning Disabilities**

I am committed to accommodate any student with learning disabilities. Please contact Disability Support Service on the campus (Building E, Tel: 898-5959) and come by my office to accommodate your needs.

**Plagiarism and Academic Honesty**

Violation of the policy will result in class failure and the student will face a disciplinary action according CSU Policy. Please see [http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/EM08/em08_40.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/EM08/em08_40.shtml). Ignorance of the policy will not serve as a defense for the student.

**In the classroom, please note the following:**

- Students are expected to turn off all pagers, cell phones and other electronic devices during class time. **No computers are to be used in class unless by special permission of the instructor.**
- **Students may not read other materials (newspapers, magazines) during class. Any incidents will result in a recording of absent from class without warning.**
- Students are expected to remain in class during the entire session. Students are not allowed to come and go during the class session.
- All class participants are expected to exhibit respectful behavior to other students and the instructor.
- All students have the right and privilege to learn in the class, free from harassment and disruption.
- Inappropriate or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, nor will lewd or foul language.
- The class follows the standards set in the *Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities (EM 08-40)* and students are subject to disciplinary action for violation of that code.

**Required reading material**

All readings are electronic on the course Web-CT Portal

**Hardcopy recommended reading materials**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Textbook and Other† Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td><strong>Introduction – Relevancy of Agriculture to Society</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 1 Folder</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History of Agriculture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ <em>Origins of humans &amp; agriculture</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ <em>Major food and fiber crops, and their origins</em></td>
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<td>Short Paper due Thursday September 3, 2009 (15% of grade)</td>
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<td>World Population and the Challenge of Agriculture</td>
<td>Chapter 2 Folder</td>
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<td>World Hunger: Solving the Problem Sustainably</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Folder</td>
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<td>✓ <em>One to two films regarding world population, and human history &amp; agriculture</em></td>
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<td><strong>Semester Exam 1 on Tuesday September 22, 2009</strong></td>
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<td>6-11</td>
<td><strong>Fundamental Plant Growth Processes</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 4 Folder</td>
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<td>Modeling crop production – micro and macro</td>
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<td>Important Types of Food and Fiber Crops</td>
<td>Chapters 5-7 Folder</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ <em>Wheat</em></td>
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<td>✓ <em>Corn</em></td>
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<td>✓ <em>Cotton</em></td>
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<td><strong>Exam 2 on Tuesday October 20, 2009</strong></td>
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<td>Green Revolution and Need for Another</td>
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<td>✓ <em>Classical technology and biotechnology in plant breeding</em></td>
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<td><strong>Term Paper due Thursday November 5, 2009 for 10% bonus</strong></td>
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<td>Climatic Conditions for Agriculture</td>
<td>Chapter 8 Folder</td>
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<td>12-15</td>
<td><strong>Exam 3 on Thursday November 12, 2009</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Term Paper due on Thursday November 19, 2009</strong></td>
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<td>Water and Soil Conditions for Agriculture</td>
<td>Chapter 9-10 Folder</td>
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<td>Global Warming and Land Degradation</td>
<td>Chapter 11 Folder</td>
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<td>Globalization of Agriculture</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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<td>Section 2 (TR 3:30-4:45 PM) on Thursday December 17 at 2-3:50 PM</td>
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†You will be assigned journal readings from the course portal in addition to the chapters.
Term Paper Format (5-7 Pages in Length) – 25 % of your grade!

- Paper narrative must be original writing. (“Cutting and pasting” are plagiarism).
- Non-Western theme topic of 5-7 pages in length that is oriented toward a problem, issue, or agricultural production success.
  \[Relevance\text{ }to\text{ }agriculture\text{ }must\text{ }be\text{ }significant\text{ }enough\text{ }to\text{ }have\text{ }greater\text{ }than\text{ }50\%\text{ }content\text{ }within\text{ }your\text{ }narrative.\]
- The paper theme must not have a primary focus on U.S., European, or similar developed/industrial countries’ experiences.
  \[It\text{ }must\text{ }focus\text{ }on\text{ }a\text{ }developing\text{ }country\text{ }or\text{ }region.\]
- A research paper where technical, scholarly references are used to give support to the theme. Must use a minimum of four scholarly different journal or other sources.
- The writing must include obvious recommendations or suggestions of how the topic issue should be ideally managed or guided for the present and future. \(Do\not\text{ }just\text{ }provide\text{ }facts\text{ }and\text{ }figures.\) Be technical and detailed.
- **Theme topics are listed on our course VISTA Portal!**

You must cite your references within the paragraphs

- References must include author(s), year published, title, and identified journal (name, volume number, and page numbers) or identified book (also include title of book if different from title of article; book authors; include book publisher).

  \[USE\text{ }CBE\text{ }CITATION\text{ }STYLE\text{ }\text{(SEE\text{ }THE\text{ }PORTAL\text{ }FOR\text{ }DETAILS).}\]

  \[An\text{ }Internet\text{ }web\text{ }address\text{ }alone\text{ }is\text{ }not\text{ }a\text{ }citation\text{ }and\text{ }not\text{ }to\text{ }be\text{ }used\text{ }in\text{ }your\text{ }paragraphs.\text{ }\]
  \[It\text{ }will\text{ }lower\text{ }your\text{ }grade!\]

- Formal or scholarly references must be used.
- A formal/scholarly reference has a section breakdown that includes citation of references within the article and a Reference section at the end of the paper.
- A formal/scholarly paper has an author(s), title, year published, and an origin (for example journal, organization, or publisher).
- Electronic sources for obtaining references from internet, library, governmental, & educational organizations are allowed.

Required Paper Structure – You must identify & label these sections! No sections results in an automatic 10% drop in your paper grade.

1. Title (give it some uniqueness or originality).
2. Introduction – state why you are writing on this topic; why it is a concern or worthy for (publishing); state your objectives for the paper.
3. Results/Discussions - Main Body of Narrative – Give it a name relevant to your topic.
   You can include subsections under this section.
4. Conclusions – this is optional, but it strengthens a long paper.
5. References – authors(s), year, title, etc.
Grading of Paper

1. Originality 30% of paper grade. Your theme is creative and original; your thinking is embedded in your paper. Impress the reader who is informed and include support details. You show an understanding of the subject through use of your references.

2. Content, Grammar and Structure 50% of paper grade. Your paper is well written, detailed, sections (Introduction, main body, etc) are identified, not redundant, and free of grammatical mistakes. You show an excellent understanding of the subject, and by the literature review and references. (Use a spell checker in your editing software)

3. Research/References 20% of paper grade. Paper contents are the result of good research of a particular topic. References are embedded and identified in your writing, quality of your references. Your “REFERENCES” section has correct format; includes all required biographical data.

What will drop your paper grade?
No sections; no breakdown into Introduction, Discussion, References, etc.
No analysis: the paper is just an encyclopedia listing of facts.
No spell/sentence structure editing
No specifics but generalities; the paper indicates no intense research of the topic.
No in-depth focus on developing country or region.
No focus on the objective(s) of your theme.
No demonstration of the literature and reference use.

***BE SPECIFIC, DETAILED, HAVE EXAMPLES OF COUNTRIES & CROPS***

Term paper is 25% of your grade and below is the result of Fall 2007 & Spring 2008 term papers by 157 students.