

WEST COAST CROP PRODUCTION

PSSC 160

FALL 2008

Coordinator: Dr. Betsy Boyd

Office Hours: Plumas 225: MW 10:00-11:00, TR 9:30-11:00 and by appointment

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Meetings: M, W 12PM in Room 205

Offered: Fall

Prerequisites: none

Required Text: none

Credit: 1 unit, C/NC

Description

A study of people, careers, crops, and systems related to the agricultural industries in this area. An opportunity to meet with professionals and learn about the skills required for research, management, and services that support agricultural production. Each class period will be a presentation by a speaker representing some aspect of Western crop production or related industry.

Objectives

- ☼ Promote an awareness of the diversity of agricultural opportunities in northern California.
- ☼ Clearly identify critical skills needed to become qualified for agricultural employment.
- ☼ Provide an incentive for students to strive diligently toward career goals.
- ☼ Bring in speakers representing perspectives from industry, government agencies, and other educational institutions.

Learner Outcomes Expected from this Course

If you are creating or maintaining a *Professional Development Portfolio*, you can expect to enhance your credentials in several important areas. With diligence, each student can acquire the following long-term benefits from this course:

- ✓ Knowledge and sensitivity to a wide range of agricultural issues.

Course Format

The course is a series of presentations, mostly by industry guests.

Participation in discussion is encouraged.

REQUIREMENTS & GRADING FOR CREDIT/NON-CREDIT

Attendance

Attendance is required and mandatory.

Unexcused absences from more than two classes will result in a grade of NC.

Weekly Summaries (100% of your grade)

Each student is required to write up a 1-page paper responding to each week's presentations (two speakers per week). The summary can include your thoughts regarding the speakers and their presentations. Assignments will be **due** in class the following week. Late assignments **will not be accepted** unless you have an **excused** absence or have made **prior** arrangements with the instructor.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Oct. 20	Introduction, Shift Happens
Oct. 22	Joseph R. Gallagher – Valent (PCA advising session)
Oct. 27	Dan Vernau – SunOpta
Oct. 29	Harsev S. Thiara – Thiara Ranches
Nov. 3	Barry Wilk – Scientific Methods
Nov.5	Tim Moss – TJ Farms Estates
Nov. 10	Hannah Nadel – UC Riverside
Nov. 12	Bill Kruegger – UC Cooperative Extension
Nov.17	Lee Altier & guest – Opportunities in Organic Vegetable Farming
Nov. 19	Cindy Daley – Opportunities in Organic Dairy Forage Production
Dec. 1	Emily J. Symmes – UC Davis
Dec. 3	Jennifer Ryder Fox – Future of Agriculture in California
Dec. 8	Lau Ackerman – Helena Research & Development
Dec. 10	speaker TBA, Wrap-Up (feedback and discussion)