

Directed Work in Organic Vegetable Crops

PSSC 309

Course Description:

Directed work and discussion of organic vegetable production, quality evaluation, and marketing practices applicable to Northern California. 1.0 hour discussion, 2.0 hours activity.

This course offers students the opportunity to gain practical crop production experience through work on an actual producing farm. Students will participate in all phases of management and sales of production.

Term

Spring 2012

Instructor

Lee Altier

Field Manager:

Ariana Gehrig

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Contact Information

221 Plumas Hall

530 636-2525

Office hours: W,Th 3:30-5:00 PM

Recommended Prerequisite

None required

Readings

Online articles and handouts will be assigned according to weekly topic.

Course Goals:

As the instructor, I intend for every student to take an active role in the production of the CSU, Chico Organic Vegetable Project. While learning applications of agricultural ecology and vegetable and soil science, they will gain an appreciation of challenges and strategies for producing high-quality vegetables while practicing good stewardship of resources.

Clothing

Students should be prepared for rigorous activity and dress appropriately, wearing sturdy close-toed footwear and bring gloves.

Grading

Grades will be determined by:

	Approx. Points	Grades will be assigned using the following scale:	
Discussion attendance	140	92% - 100%	A
Assignments and quizzes	100	90% - 91%	A-
Activities	300	88% - 89%	B+
Discussion final	<u>100</u>	82% - 87%	B
Total	640	80% - 81%	B-
		78% - 79%	C+
		72% - 77%	C
		70% - 71%	C-
		68% - 69%	D+
		60% - 67%	D
		Below 60%	Failure

Course Management/Policies

Discussion hours are scheduled to inform students of important points, procedures, or conditions involved with growing particular crops and to discuss problems as they arise during the progress of the crops. Discussion attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be recorded during each weekly session.

Assignments and/or quizzes will be given periodically.

Supervised activity consists of the field work and training associated with the crop project. Students are expected to do 3 hours of supervised activity per week in order to earn the maximum points available. Students are responsible for coordinating activity times with the course instructor and Field Manager (**Ariana Gehrig**) at the ATRC. They must have **her** sign work logs for verification of hours.

Sign volunteer employee form. This is to be done before work is started.

Bearing in mind that the ATRC is a functioning farm and the student crop projects are for instructional purposes it must be understood by the student that the University will have complete control in matters of supervision, inspection, crop rotation, policy and adherence to the course requirements.

Authorized supervision is required at all times for all crop work. Safety is most important and will be stressed in all operations. Do not operate any equipment or use any pesticides without thorough instruction and prior approval. ATRC staff or students hired by the ATRC may also assist and supervise project students when necessary.

Operate equipment and use pesticides in a safe manner at all times. Only the Crops Supervisor or the Instructor can allow other riders on equipment that has a seat which will accommodate a rider.

Students are expected to read and adhere to all course policies found the College of Agriculture Common Course Policies found at: <http://www.csuchicoag.org/CoursePolicies>.

College of Ag Course Policies

University Policies

(Including Student Rights, Academic Honesty, Student with Disabilities, and Use of Computing and Communications Technology)

See: <http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/cat07/08EndMaterials/02UniversityPolicies.html>

Academic integrity

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at California State University, Chico, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity and other resources related to student conduct can be found at: <http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/sja.shtml>

Academic Rigor

Academic rigor means the consistent expectation of excellence and the aspiration to significant achievement. It should pervade the entire atmosphere of the University--teaching and learning, curriculum, evaluation of student and faculty, outreach, admissions, advising, and student life.

Rigorous Learning

Rigorous students are part of the equation of rigorous teaching and learning. A rigorous education is vigorous, difficult, deeply satisfying work, and it requires a lifestyle conducive to achieving excellence. College is not a temporary diversion or a period of entertainment, but a fundamental piece of student character, citizenship, and employment future. A diploma and good grades from a demanding institution count for something. Rigorous students

- Set high personal standards, develop a strong sense of purpose, come to class well-prepared, and complete assignments on time.
- Develop an effective relationship with the instructor, in and outside of class, and make the most of University advising and other services.
- Treat fellow students and the classroom environment with complete respect. Give each class full attention and participation. Do not miss class, arrive late, or leave early.
- Accept continuing responsibility for learning and for grades earned.
- Approach each class in a professional manner, as if the class were real employment. Treat a full-course load as full-time work and spend no less time on it. Determine exactly what is expected.
- Experiment with all teaching and learning strategies used in classes, and also determine which work best for them.
- Demonstrate complete honesty and integrity.

Rigorous Teaching

Rigorous faculty are role models for the behaviors and accomplishments the University seeks to promote. They demonstrate a high level of professionalism and commitment to the University and to their discipline and inspire in students an excitement about learning. Guiding students toward excellence, they

- Communicate high expectations and demonstrate them through a demanding syllabus and well-prepared classes.
- Encourage student-faculty contact in and out of class and offer conscientious advising and consistent availability.
- Encourage collaboration and active learning, fully involving students in the learning experience.
- Provide students early, prompt, and frequent feedback and develop appropriate assessment strategies.
- Emphasize time on task, clearly communicate time required for learning, make it clear that full-time study is full-time work, and design learning experiences so that homework matters.
- Develop approaches and strategies geared to diverse talents and ways of learning, while maintaining high standards of accountability.
- Reduce opportunities to engage in academic dishonesty and challenge its occurrence.

Miscellaneous Policies

- It is the student's responsibility to meet all appropriate deadlines for adding, withdrawing, etc. These deadlines can be found on the University web site at: <http://www.csuchico.edu/schedule/>
- Students are expected to turn off all pagers, cell phones and other electronic devices during class time.
- Students are expected to pay attention and participate in class meetings.
- 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.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DSS Office (Disability Support Services) to establish a record of their disability.

Special accommodations for exams require ample notice to the testing office and must be submitted to the instructor well in advance of the exam date.

Student Computing

Computer labs for student use are available <http://www.csuchico.edu/stcp> located on the 1st floor of the Merriam Library Rm 116 and 450, Tehama Hall Rm.131 and the BMU Rm 301. Additional labs that may be available to students in your department/college.

Student Services

Student services are designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. Students can find support for services such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. Student services information can be found at: <http://www.csuchico.edu/5.-studentservices.html>.

University Writing Center

The CSU, Chico writing center is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the University Writing Center. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center information can be found online at <http://www.csuchico.edu/uwc>.

Student Learning Center

The mission of the Student Learning Center (SLC) is to provide services that will assist CSU, Chico students to become independent learners. The SLC prepares and supports students in their college course work by offering a variety of programs and resources to meet student needs. The SLC facilitates the academic transition and retention of students from high schools and community colleges by providing study strategy information, content subject tutoring, and supplemental instruction. The SLC is online at <http://www.csuchico.edu/slc/>.

Schedule (tentative)

Week	Topic
1	Introduction, Course Overview (Sign up to take Defensive Driving)
2	Organic Vegetable Project overview
3	Certification requirements and management
4	Land planning—long-term
5	Land planning—short-term (crop rotations)
6	Variety selection and quality evaluation
7	Quality evaluation (cont.)
8	Soil fertility, amendments, and soil analysis
9	Soil fertility, amendments, and soil analysis
10	Pest management
11	Pest management
12	Budgeting
13	Harvesting, storage
14	Marketing
15	Special reports
16	FINAL EXAM

Homework:

Do an internet search about federal Organic Certification Standards in the United States. Write a half page describing the main management requirements.

Returning project students:

Develop a draft outline for your project. You will probably need to talk to the field managers to identify the area, crop(s), time schedule, required materials, activity plan, budget, and any special concerns. Then, in the next phase of planning, you should do some research about your project to get detailed information.

FIELD WORK LOG

Week	Activity								
	Planting	Soil Mgmt	Pest Mgmt	Green-house	Quality Evaluation	Harvest	Market	Weekly Total	Initials
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
TOTAL									

You should try to have at least two to three hours in each activity category. Have the field manager initial your weekly entry. Totals should sum to 30 hours for the semester.