PSSC 398, Special Topics Sustainable Vegetable Crop Production Fall 2012

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Office Hours: MW 10-11:30 AM

Class Days and Times: T, Th 3:30-4:45

Classroom: University Farm classroom

Prerequisites: PSSC 101 or instructor permission

Course Usage of Blackboard Vista or Learn

Copies of the course syllabus and major assignments may be found on Vista. You are responsible for regularly checking the online resources, which is accessed through the Chico State Portal at http://portal.csuchico.edu.

Course Description:

This course is an experiential, field-oriented course covering origin, nutrition, environmental requirements, and management strategies for the sustainable production of vegetables. It will provide students with the opportunity to appreciate the vast array of vegetables in the world and develop management skills for commercial production of vegetables in a sustainable manner.

Course Goals:

Provide students with the opportunity to appreciate the vast array of vegetables in the world and develop management skills for efficient commercial production of vegetables in a sustainable manner.

Course Objectives

Students will:

- Learn how to produce vegetables in a manner that conserves resources and environmental integrity.
- Appreciate the enormous variety of vegetables, their importance in worldwide food production, and contribution to the human diet.
- Assess production challenges and formulate management strategies.
- Develop skills for conducting all aspects of vegetable production in an efficient and fiscally sound manner.
- Apply knowledge to investigating and analyzing local production challenges;

- Explore the concept of *civic agriculture* and assess how methods and locality of production in our region affect social sustainability.
- Contribute to the local community by applying knowledge toward addressing local production needs.

Texts

Required:

Maynard, D.N. and G.J. Hochmuth. 1997. Knott's Handbook for Vegetable Growers (5th edition). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.: New York. Print ISBN: 9780471738282. Online ISBN: 9780470121474. Available online at: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/book/10.1002/9780470121474.

Recommended:

Grubinger, V.P. 1999. Sustainable Vegetable Production from Start-Up to Market. NRAES, Ithaca, NY

Coleman, E. 1995. The New Organic Grower: A Master's Manual of Tools and Techniques for the Home and Market Gardener.

Useful website:

Organic Agriculture – eXtension is an interactive learning environment from land-grant universities across the U.S.

Computer Use

Access to the internet is required. Homework, quizzes, and supplemental materials will be posted in the course website in *Blackboard Learn*. Some of the audio clips require the free Real Player add-in. Get it from http://www.real.com/realplayer. Many of the readings are PDF files that require the Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you do not already have this on your computer, it is freely available from: http://get.adobe.com/reader/.

Grading

Grades will be determined by:

Activity	Approximate		
	Percentage		
Class participation	25		
Quizzes	25		
Written assignments	10		
Project log, report, and	20		
presentation			
Final Exam (comprehensive)	20		

Grades will be assigned using the following scale:

acs will be assigned using the folio				
	92% - 100%	Α		
	90% - 91%	A-		
	88% - 89%	B+		
	82% - 87%	В		
	80% - 81%	B-		
	78% - 79%	C+		
	72% - 77%	С		
	70% - 71%	C-		
	68% - 69%	D+		
	60% - 67%	D		
	Below 60%	Failure		

Class Participation

Class time will be an opportunity for discussing the homework, analyzing case studies, assessing vegetable quality and other critical thinking activities. Discussions will serve to clarify and elaborate on topics in the homework assignments, not to reiterate them. Classroom learning will be based upon a collaborative exploration of ideas, not listening to lectures from the instructor.

Homework

Homework assignments, comprising reading, videos, and study guides will be contained in *Blackboard Learn* modules. These modules must be completed thoughtfully in order for you to participate in class discussions. Students will be responsible for keeping track of the schedule for completing the homework by the due date. Failure to keep up with the homework will jeopardize quiz performance and class participation.

Quizzes

There will be a graded weekly online quiz due before class on Tuesday. In addition, there will be a few "gateway" quizzes that students must pass with 100% before they may continue with the next homework module. These can be repeated as many times as necessary.

Course Project

During the first two weeks, students must select a research or community service project. The instructor will share ideas on possible projects. Students will be expected to explore whether the project is viable in terms of their time and abilities. Projects will entail engaging in <u>six hours</u> of work, keeping a log, writing blogs, writing a summary report, and making a class presentation.

Course Management/Policies

Students are expected to read and adhere to all course policies. College of Agriculture Common Course Policies are posted at:

http://www.csuchico.edu/ag/ assets/documents/syllabi/COACommonSyllabusPolicies.pdf

Personal Conduct

- 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.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Be certain that you understand the <u>Academic Honesty Policy</u> at Chico State. The policy applies to all work done for this class - including homework, exams, and reports. California State University, Chico is committed to a campus culture that takes pride in fostering an environment of academic integrity, academic freedom, and high-quality learning environments. These efforts are guided by the following statement from the university president:

"The students, faculty, administrators, and staff of CSU, Chico are committed to a culture of honesty in which members of the community accept responsibility to uphold academic integrity in all they say, write, and create."

For any assignment, even if you work with a partner or a study group, each person is responsible for submitting the results of her/his **own** work. Each person is also responsible to see that her/his work is not used or submitted by another unless expressly permitted (by the instructor) and is appropriately acknowledged. For more information, see the Executive Memorandum 04-36 and page 51 in the current CSUC catalog.

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.

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.

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, 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. Please also contact Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) as they are the designated department responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services for students with disabilities. ARC will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations.

Accessibility Resource Center http://www.csuchico.edu/arc 530-898-5959 Student Services Center 170 arcdept@csuchico.edu

IT Support Services

Computer labs for student use are located on the first and fourth floor of the Meriam Library, Room 116 and 450, Tehama Hall Room 131, and the Bell Memorial Union (BMU) basement. You can get help using your computer from IT Support Services; contact them through their website, http://www.csuchico.edu/itss. Additional labs may be available to students in your department or 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/current-students.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week Of	Topic	Discussion/Activity	Reading	Assignments
8/27/2012	Classification,	Learning	Module 1	
	origin, nutrition;	expectations;		
	research	farming systems		
	opportunities	<u>research</u>		
9/3/2012	Major categories			Project proposals
	and environ. req.			due
9/10/2012	Concepts of	Case study	Module 2	
	sustainability	analysis; civic		
	(economic, social,	agriculture		
	environmental)			
9/17/2012	Annual planning	Case study analysis	Module 3	
9/24/2012	Plant growing and		Module 4	Log and blog
10/1/2012	greenhouse	Interim project	-	
10/1/2012	vegetable	Interim project		
	production	reporting		
10/8/2012	Field planting		Module 5	Log and blog
10/15/2012		<u>Tillage discussion</u>		
10/22/2012	Soil mgmt.		Module 6	Log and blog
10/29/2012	Vegetable quality		Module 7	
11/5/2012	Vegetable		Module 8	Log and blog
	harvesting and			
	storage			
11/12/2012		Project		Summary report
		presentations		due at time of
11/26/2012		Project		presentation.
		presentations		
12/3/2012	Community	Video clips and	Module 9	
	Connections and	discussion:		
	Marketing	Farmers and Their		
12/10/2012	†	Diversified		
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		Marketing		
		Strategies		