PSSC 365  
Sustainable Vegetable Crop Production  
Fall 2015

Instructor: Lee Altier  
Office Location: Plumas 221  
E-mail: LAltier@csuchico.edu  
Office Hours: T, Th 8-9:30 AM, F 10-11:30 AM  
Class Days and Times: T, Th 3:30-4:45  
Classroom: University Farm classroom #001 (Tuesdays)  
OVP (Thursdays)  
Prerequisites: PSSC 101 or instructor permission

Course Usage of Blackboard Learn  
Copies of the course syllabus and major assignments will be on Blackboard. You are responsible for regularly checking the website.

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:

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

Useful websites:
Organic Agriculture (http://www.extension.org/organic_production) – eXtension is an interactive learning environment from land-grant universities across the U.S. A great resource for all aspects of crop management.
Cornell Vegetables (http://www.vegetables.cornell.edu/) – another great website pertaining to the production, pest management, storage, and marketing of vegetables.

Computer Use

Access to the internet is required. Homework, quizzes, and supplemental materials will be posted in the course website in Blackboard Learn.

Grading

Grades will be determined by (tentative):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Approximate Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written assignments</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project log, report, and presentation</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (comprehensive)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades will be assigned using the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92% - 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90% - 91%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88% - 89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82% - 87%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% - 81%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78% - 79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72% - 77%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% - 71%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68% - 69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% - 67%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 five hours of work, keeping a log, 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 Academic Honesty Policy 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:

Revised: 8/27/2015
“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.