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 2017

Instructor
Lee Altier

Contact Information
221 Plumas Hall
Tel. 530 636-2525, Email: laltier@csuchico.edu
Office hours: M 1:45-4:45 PM, W 3-5 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Approx. Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion attendance</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments and quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion final</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>640</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grades will be assigned using the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<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>

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 2 hours of supervised activity per week in order to earn the maximum points available. Each student is responsible for coordinating activity times with the course instructor and the field manager (Mia) at the ATRC. They must have her or another supervising crew member sign the work log for verification of hours.

Sign volunteer employee waiver 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 without thorough instruction and prior approval. OVP staff or students hired by the OVP may also assist and supervise project students when necessary. Only the field manager 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](http://www.csuchicoag.org/CoursePolicies).
## Schedule (tentative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction, Course Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Certification requirements and management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tool use and safety training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Land planning—(seasonality, crop rotations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Land planning—(cont.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Variety selection and quality evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Quality evaluation (cont.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Soil fertility, amendments, and soil analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Soil fertility, amendments, and soil analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pest management</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pest management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Budgeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Harvesting, storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Special reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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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.
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.
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.

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, please email, make an appointment, or see me during office hours as soon as possible. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessibility Resource Center (http://www.csuchico.edu/arc/) on the campus (tel: 530 898-5959) 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](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](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](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/](http://www.csuchico.edu slc/).
I. Overview
General orientation of the standards

II. Process
A. Transition to organic
B. Organic System Plan (OSP)
C. Inspection
D. Comments, response, approval

III. Details
A. Seeds and planting materials
B. Recordkeeping (harvests, sales, input applications, clean-out logs)
C. OMRI-approved materials
D. Material review request
E. Commingling of products

IV. References
Overview of Organic Farm Certification:
California Certified Organic Farmers website:
http://www.ccof.org/
USDA National Organic Program (NOP) Standards Manual
https://www.ccof.org/documents/nop-standards-manual

Homework Questions:  (post these in the "Assignments" link in Bb and bring copy to class for next week)
1) Provide two examples of management mistakes that could cause loss of organic certification.
2) What are the three aspects of the “land requirements” for certification? (section 205.202).
3) Are harvests of wild crops allowed for sale as organic produce?  (section 205.207)
4) Under what conditions may non-organically produced seeds be planted for organic production?  (section 205.204)
5) If a product is labeled as “organic,” must 100% of the ingredients be organically produced?