PSSC 390
FOOD FOREVER
Course Syllabus

Course Description:
Are you concerned about the quality of your food, where it comes from, and how it is produced? Are you concerned about your impact on this planet and how you can maintain a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle? Are you interested in understanding more about the science underlying lifestyle choices? Then, get geared up for a stimulating experience!

By the end of the semester, you will have read, heard, and discussed critical challenges facing food producers and consumers. You will learn about how societies have adapted food production systems to their environments, and you will understand how agriculture has evolved into the intensive, mechanized production systems of the United States. Most importantly, you will be better able to evaluate choices in your life and make informed decisions affecting your own resource use and food supply that promote a sustainable society.

PSSC 390 is an exploration of the resources and management that contribute to the sustainability of food production systems around the world. It addresses many important concepts and issues associated with the GE Pathways in Food Studies, Sustainability, and Global Development. It is an upper division course and has a Global Cultures (GC) designation.

Term
Fall 2017

Instructor
Lee Altier

Office Hours and Contact Information
Lee Altier
Phone: 530 636-2525
Email: LAltier@csuchico.edu
Office hours: M,W 9:30-11:30 AM
221 Plumas Hall

Information on contacting the instructor:
The easiest way to communicate is to give me a phone call or come by during my office hours. If you call at other times, I may be in my office, or please leave a message. You may also email to my address above. If you do not get a reply, send your message again--there is a lot of spam! Identify your email by including the course number in the subject line (e.g., PSSC 390--Exam 1 question). Note that the course mail is for contacting other students.
Course Goals:

1. Explore how to live in a manner that sustains the resources and ecological systems upon which all life depends.
2. Explore the dynamics of natural ecosystems and the influence of humans on their characteristics.
3. Compare the cultural and environmental context of agricultural systems in different parts of the world.
4. Gain an appreciation for how societies have adapted and evolved in relationship to the environment and resources available to them.
5. Explore factors that influence the viability and sustainability of agricultural production systems.
6. Provide a forum for the sharing of ideas and information about challenges of human survival and maintaining a healthy planet.
7. Improve ability to think critically about ecological issues as they relate to food production and life style decisions.

General Education Course Outcomes

With diligence, each student can acquire the following benefits from this course:

- **Sustainability:** this is intrinsic to the entire course. Students will demonstrate knowledge of ecosystem dynamics in association with food production, and they will explore and assess the impacts of management on essential resources and ecosystem services. By the end of the semester, they will understand the ramifications of their own decisions on the sustainability of their own quality of life.
- **Active Inquiry:** comprises much of the activities in the course. Students will ask questions underlying complex conflicts over resources; they will research and identify scholarly sources of information; and they will interpret information in an effort to evaluate possible solutions.
- **Critical Thinking:** Students will identify questions that are important to them and consider the kind of evidence that would help them to answer those questions. They will analyze the evidence in global and local contexts.

Texts & Equipment

Clicker Required: i>clicker 2

NOTES:

- *Bring your clicker to every class,* so you get full credit for participation;
- Do not share your clicker or use another person’s clicker. It is up to you to manage your own clicker and course work. Violations will be treated as an abuse of academic integrity;
- There will be **two free days** during the semester for malfunctioning or forgotten clickers.
- If your clicker is lost or malfunctioning, get it replaced or fixed as soon as possible; count it as one of your free days.
- If you lose or need to replace your clicker, you will need to re-register your new device in order to receive credit for your submissions.
All readings are available online this semester. You may read them online or print them out as you like.

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/

**Other Recommended Reading:**

- *Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization* by Lester Brown
- *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System* by Raj Patel
- *Collapse* by Jared Diamond
- *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* by Michael Pollan

**Computer Use**

Use of a computer and the internet is required for accessing course material in Blackboard Learn via the Chico State portal. For technical assistance it is usually best to contact IT Support Services, not the instructor.

**Grading**

Exams and reports (case studies) are recorded as a **percentage** score. The **Assignments** are recorded on a 0-200 scale. A "200" indicates that you received full credit; "100" indicates that something was deficient or incomplete; (and "300," in rare circumstances, is given if your assignment was way above the norm).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percent of Total Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam 1</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (online/in-class)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Report 1 (final draft)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Report 2 (final draft)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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* Includes discussion assignments, drafts, response statements, and other homework.
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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>% Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>% Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Unusual ability and distinctive achievement</td>
<td>92-100</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance</td>
<td>72-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td>90-91</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td>70-71</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td></td>
<td>88-89</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>68-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Articulate, above-average performance</td>
<td>82-87</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Passing work below the standard required for graduation</td>
<td>60-67</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td>80-81</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure to achieve credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td></td>
<td>78-79</td>
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**Course Management/Policies**

The course is divided up into modules comprising the major topics of the course. Each module consists of several activities that you will complete in sequence. Activities include reading, listening to videos and sound clips, and writing assignments.

**Quizzes:** There will quizzes included as part of the module activities. Because of occasional technical problems, do not wait until the last minute to take the quiz.

**Assignments:** Assignments are planned according to the calendar. Go through each module and complete the reading and assignments according to the deadline.

- It is your responsibility to post assignments in the proper place as shown in the Assignment Schedule. If you post them somewhere else, you may not receive credit.
- For any assignment, 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.
- It is recommended that students keep a copy of all submitted assignments.

**Case study analysis:** This will involve answering preliminary questions, turning in a draft, critiquing other students' drafts, and submitting the final version. Turn-around time for getting back the graded reports is usually three weeks from the due date. If you have a complaint or concern about how your paper was graded, you should put it in writing in an email to the instructor within two weeks of receiving back your graded paper.

**Exams:** Allocated time for exams are 75 minutes for each midterm and 2 hours for the final. There are three types of exam questions: multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. The final will mostly be multiple choice and true-false questions. It will be cumulative, so it will be helpful to review study guides in the modules and the previous exams.
Course participation: Students are expected to actively participate in class. Lack of participation will jeopardize your grade.

NOTE: If you have not passed the first quiz and begun Module 2 by the end of the second week of class, you will be dropped from the course. Please contact me if you are having difficulties.

Study guide questions: These are not required to be turned in, however students are strongly urged to answer the study guide questions to focus their attention on key concepts and to prepare for exams!

Late work: Depending on the assignment and circumstances, late work may not be accepted. Talk to the instructor before the due date if you have a problem.

Readings: Assigned as in the modules. Readings for which there are study guide questions are the most important for exam study. The other readings are intended to help you gain an understanding of course concepts with examples and applications.

Students with Disabilities: 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.

Extra credit: There are extra credit assignments available. However, they are not intended as substitutes for the regular assignments. You will not be eligible for extra credit if you have missed more than two assignments or reports. All extra credit is due before the end of the semester as indicated in the assignment schedule.

Electronics in class: Cell phones, laptops, iPads, and other distractions must be shut off and out of sight in class. If you must text or make a call, go outside the classroom. If you would like to use a laptop for taking notes, please see the instructor.
Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Be certain that you understand the Academic Integrity Policy at Chico State (http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/2004/04-036.shtml). 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.

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.

NOTE: You will submit your case report to the Turnitin website. It will provide reports indicating any text from other sources that may be improperly used or referenced. If you submit your papers before the due date, you will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit your paper before your paper is graded.

Suggestions on Harmonizing with the Flow of the Course:

1. As mentioned earlier, the course is divided up into seven modules, each one consisting of several activities. As you start a new module, take a look at the introduction, objectives and activities list. Plan your time so that you systematically work through completion of the activities.

2. There is a deadline for each activity and each section. In order for you to get credit for your efforts and for you to successfully complete the course, it is essential that you keep up the course schedule! For due dates, go to the Assignment Schedule.

3. There is a study guide for each section of the course. Each one contains vocabulary and review questions that will help you to focus on key concepts. I strongly suggest that as you begin a section, you print out a copy of the study guide and keep it next to you as you do each activity. As you complete the activities of each module, be sure that you can answer all of the questions in the study guide. If you are unsure about your answers check with me!

4. Your questions and comments are always welcome!!!