

Course Description/Rationale:

Contemporary Issues in Sustainable Agriculture (Web-Based, Summer I)

This course will examine the philosophical, theoretical, and practical aspects of the current sustainable agriculture movement. Course activities are designed to provide the current or aspiring agricultural professional with sufficient background to engage and assist clientele with planning and decision-making related to the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices. (Begins on **June 8** and ends on **July 9**.)

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Interpret various definitions of *sustainable agriculture*.
2. Discuss philosophical, political and economic rationales for adopting sustainable agriculture practices.
3. Compare and contrast *sustainable* and *conventional* agriculture methods.
4. Examine sustainable agriculture in context of local, regional, and global food systems.
5. Review research articles related to sustainable agriculture.
6. Identify education and training opportunities related to sustainable agriculture.
7. Recognize the role of governments in promoting sustainable agriculture and food systems.
8. Develop personal and professional perspectives regarding sustainable agriculture.

Grade Determination

This graduate course is a web-based, lasting for approximately one month June 8. The course is divided into four course modules consisting of an overview; lecture notes, and review of related websites, documents, journal articles, and/or videos; online discussions on relevant topics/issues. Additionally, some modules will include projects, reflective essays, or experiential activities that extend beyond the virtual boundaries of the eCollege format. **Each student will also complete a 4-5 page paper that synthesizes concepts and findings from 4-6 relevant journal articles or related publications.** Details of these and other assignments will be provided online in eCollege.

<i>Assessment Activity</i>	<i>Possible Points</i>
Weekly online discussions [3 topics per module (4) x 20 points]	240
Informational poster on a sustainable agriculture practice	100
Report on an educational or training program in sustainable agriculture	100
Term paper on a professor-approved topic	100
<u>Personal/Professional Perspectives Essay (in lieu of exam)</u>	<u>100</u>
Total possible points	640

$$\text{Your grade} _____ \% = \frac{\text{Your Total Points Earned}}{640} \times 100$$

A=90% or higher B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F= below 60%

Class Syllabus Addendum

The professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester, if needed. The professor also reserves the right to extend credit for alternative assignments, projects, or presentations under extenuating circumstances.

Professionalism

Students are expected to log on to the scheduled module of instruction, review assigned resources, and complete online discussions. Their participation in online discussion and other virtual instructional activities should follow the basic principles of common courtesy and decency. Rude or profane comments, as well as cheating in any form, will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with the professor's guidelines may result in suspension from class for the remainder of the instruction.

Reasonable Accommodations

Requests from students with disabilities for reasonable accommodations must go through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, contact Coordinator of Disability Services at 903/886-5835.

Office Hours

The following office hours are the official times that I will be available for drop-in student consultation. I have an open door policy and will try to assist students any time that I am available. However, occasionally the professorial demands of class preparation, research, and service prohibit immediate drop-in service.

Monday by appointment
Wednesday 1:00-4:00 p.m..

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work. Assistance with written assignments, such as proofreading or editing, is encouraged as long as the final concepts and product are those drafted and authored by the student. Information or materials (including ideas, quotes, data, procedures, etc.) from sources other than the student must be given proper credit through appropriate citation. The discipline of Agricultural Education uses the APA format (6th edition) as its primary style guide for publications, including research papers and reports. Assistance with this format and general guidelines for written assignments are available at the following two sources:

The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Academic honesty and integrity is expected of all students. Cheating including but not limited to copying, talking to classmates during testing, using notes when prohibited by instructor, and plagiarism (as defined by the Council of Writing Program Administrators <http://www.wpacouncil.org/node/9>) will not be tolerated. Penalties may include grade reduction or suspension from class, depending on the frequency and severity of the violation.

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