



MASTER COURSE OUTLINE

Prepared By: Clyde Rasmussen

Date: January 2014

COURSE TITLE

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Dept.: AGR

Course Num: 272

(Formerly:)

CIP Code: 01.0301

Intent Code: 21

Program Code: 105

Credits: 5

Total Contact Hrs Per Qtr.: 50

Lecture Hrs: 50

Lab Hrs:

Other Hrs:

Distribution Designation:

COURSE DESCRIPTION (as it will appear in the catalog)

Examination of social, economic and ecological consequences of the modern, industrial agriculture paradigm. Topics include history of agriculture, world views, the sustainability concept, alternative agriculture systems, world food systems, agro ecology, ecological economics, biotechnology, local food systems, and the geography of hunger.

PREREQUISITES

None

TEXTBOOK GUIDELINES

Textbook determined by Agriculture faculty (Example: The Sacred Balance, by Suzuki, David; Bringing the Food Economy Home: Local Alternatives to Global Agribusiness, Norberg-Hodge, Helena, *et.al.*)

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to demonstrate the following knowledge or skills:

1. Understand the concept of subsistence systems and sustainability and through exploring how they relate to culture, agriculture, and the environment.
2. Better understand contemporary agricultural systems, their origins and their impact on the environment and society.
3. Understand alternative agriculture systems and their potential for contributing to sustainable agriculture.
4. Examine the philosophical, cultural, ecological, economic, and technical bases for achieving sustainable food production systems.
5. Have enhanced ability to assess the environmental ramifications of agriculture systems.
6. Have enhanced understanding of the concept of sustainability and its implementation in agriculture.
7. Conduct themselves responsibly as an individual and as a member of a team or group as shown by participation in organized discussion and field trips.
8. Seek knowledge, information and diverse viewpoints as demonstrated by reading course materials and obtaining and interpreting additional information for the course term paper.
9. Think critically as exemplified by written and oral responses to questions pertaining to class readings
10. Develop critical thinking skills and an ability to analyze and compare agricultural systems from economic, social, and environmental perspectives.

INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES

COURSE CONTENT OUTLINE

1. World views and agriculture
2. History of agriculture
3. Sustainability concept
4. Biotechnology
5. Social, ecological and economic impacts of industrial and alternative agriculture systems
6. World food systems
7. Agro ecology
8. Ecological Economics
9. Geography of hunger
10. Local food systems/networks

DEPARTMENTAL GUIDELINES *(optional)*

DIVISION CHAIR APPROVAL

DATE