

COURSE SYLLABUS FORMAT
Southeast Missouri State University

Department of Agriculture

Course No. AO340

Title of Course: Agroecosystems Analysis Field Course

Revision

New x

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

Whole-system approach to agriculture production, ecology, economics and food systems applied in a real-world field course experience. 3 credit hours

II. Prerequisite (s): AO120 or permission of instructor

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- A. Investigate the origin, impact and sustainability of agricultural practices and food systems within the region.
- B. Define, assess and interpret factors, which contribute to sustainability of agroecosystems.
- A. Interact directly with farmers, business professionals, faculty, and other students.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes (Minimum of 3)

- A. Define and describe the properties of agroecosystems
- B. Define local food system.
- C. Recognize diversity of agriculture and food systems as an aspect of an ecosystem.

V. Expectations of Students:

- A. Read required material prior to class attendance and be prepared to discuss it fully and intelligently.
- B. Attend class regularly and actively participate in class discussion.
- C. Meet all announced deadlines for assignments.
- D. Abide by University policies regarding absence from class and academic honesty as stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin.
- E. Lecture and discussion will be based on reading assignments. Please read assignments before class lectures.
- F. Class attendance is extremely important because of the group activities and class discussions. Each class and lab is unique and cannot be duplicated, so attendance is required. Participation points will be assigned based on your attendance, pop quizzes, cooperative discussions, and classroom attitude.
- G. Professional attitude and atmosphere are required for this course. General rules of respect will apply during this course. NO tobacco products of any kind may be used in this room.
- H. Any papers that are handed in after the deadline will result in the penalty loss of one letter grade with each day. There will be no exceptions for the late policy.
- I. Academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism, will not be tolerated. This class is preparation for your future and requires professionalism.
- J. If you have any condition such as a physical or learning disability which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as I have it outlined or which will require academic accommodations, please notify me immediately. I will do my best to accommodate you (if you have a documented need – See the Learning Assistance Programs & Disability Support Services for more information on this). This is also a resource to assist you.

VI. Course Content or Outline (Indicate number of class hours per unit or section):

Approximate Course Outline

Lecture Topics
Introduction

Estimated timeline (week)

1

Concepts and definitions	1
Basics of agroecology	1
Resources	1
Renewable Resources	
Soil, water, energy, capital	
Ecological management	
Economics	1
Agrotourism	
People	1
Manage Whole Systems	2
Minimize impacts on neighboring ecosystems.	
Maximize Long-Term Benefits	
Value Health	2
Analysis of food systems	2
• Local	
• Community	
• Regional	
• Global	
Analysis of agroecosystems	3
• Society	
• Community	
• Spiritual	
• Economic	
• Personal	
Final paper and presentation	1

VII. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

- A. Gliessman, Stephen R. 2006. Agroecology: The Ecology of Sustainable Food Systems (2nd Edition)
- B. Rickerl, D. and C. Francis (Eds.) 2004. Agroecosystems Analysis. Monograph 43. American Society of Agronomy, Madison WI.

VIII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

- A. Final grades will be assigned on the basis of five criteria:
 - a. Reading narrative (10% of the final grade)
 - b. Participation (15% of the final grade)
 - i. It is expected that students will be fully engaged with the course during the field study week and during the development of the written presentation. This course is an “immersion” experience and requires both extensive and intensive effort. An end-of-course group project participation evaluation will be conducted.
 - c. Oral presentations (30 % of the final grade)
 - d. Written paper (30% of the final grade)
 - i. The final written report must be a collaborative effort of your team.
 - e. Student learner document (maximum 3 pages, 15% of the final grade)