

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

This course is designed to introduce students to ecological principles and analysis of sustainability of agricultural systems. Prerequisite: AO 120/020. (3)

II. Prerequisites:

AO120/020

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to apply:

- A. agronomic and management principles to a sustainable agriculture system
- B. cooperative learning skills to a sustainable agriculture system
- C. skills necessary to motivate and organize a group in defining and solving problems
- D. learning skills to continuing education after graduation

IV. Expectations of Students:

- A. Lecture, lab and discussion will be based on reading assignments. Therefore students are expected to read assignments before class.
- B. Attendance is important to success in the class.
- C. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form and will be handled according to University Policy
- D. Policy on group projects is that one must complete the work as a team with each member completing a portion of the end product. However, if a person is not comfortable in receiving the group grade, a person may complete the entire project individually (but this must be in addition to the group work).

V. Course Content or Outline:

- A. Introduction
- B. Concepts and definitions
- C. History of agriculture
- D. Basics of ecology
- E. Economics
 - 1. of agroecosystems
 - 2. “sustainable” economics
- F. Sustainable agriculture
 - 1. Alternative agriculture
 - 2. Organics
 - 3. CSA – consumer supported agriculture
 - 4. Farmers markets
- G. Analysis of agroecosystems
 - 1. society
 - 2. community
 - 3. spiritual

- 4. economic
- 5. personal
- H. Other topics as time allows

VI. Textbooks and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

- A. Rickerl, D & C Francis (eds.). 2004. Agroecosystems Analysis. Monograph 43. American Society of Agronomy, Madison, WI.
- B. Campus resources for students can be found on the university web page under Current Students > Student Services. This will show you locations and accessibility of computer labs (such as 105 Magill Hall). The Writing Center located in Kent Library including an Online Writing Lab to assist you with writing and editing papers.
- C. Other resources will be provided as necessary.

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

- A. Individual presentations (10 percent)
- B. Team project (15 percent)
- C. Debates (2) (15 percent)
- D. Four exams (50 percent)
- E. Participation points (10 percent)
- F. Grading scale:
 - A = 90-100%
 - B = 80-89%
 - C = 70-79%
 - D = 60-69%
 - F = Below 60%