SUSAG 112 Course Outline as of Fall 2013

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: SUSAG 112 Title: ORGANIC CROP PRODUCTION Full Title: Organic Crop Production Last Reviewed: 2/14/2005

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	2.00	Lecture Scheduled	2.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	35.00
Minimum	2.00	Lab Scheduled	1.00	8	Lab Scheduled	17.50
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 70.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 122.50

Title 5 Category:	AA Degree Applicable
Grading:	Grade or P/NP
Repeatability:	00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP
Also Listed As:	
Formerly:	AG 297.55S

Catalog Description:

Planting procedures, cultural requirements, harvesting techniques and marketing practices involved in the production of organic vegetable, fruit and grain crops in small commercial operations. Includes hands-on management of Shone Farm's Food Pyramid Garden.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation: Course Completion or Concurrent Enrollment in SUSAG 110 (or AG 121)

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:

Description: Planting procedures, cultural requirements, harvesting techniques and marketing practices involved in the production of organic vegetable, fruit and grain crops in small commercial operations. Includes hands-on management of Shone Farm's Food Pyramid Garden. (Grade or P/NP) Prerequisites/Corequisites: Recommended: Course Completion or Concurrent Enrollment in SUSAG 110 (or AG 121)

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree: CSU GE:	Area Transfer Area	Effective: Effective:	Inactive: Inactive:
IGETC:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:
CSU Transfer	: Effective:	Inactive:	
UC Transfer:	Effective:	Inactive:	

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Both Certificate and Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:

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

- 1. Select appropriate crops for Sonoma County.
- 2. Evaluate various potting mixes for seed starting.
- 3. Compare and contrast the benefits of on-farm transplant production and purchase of commercially produced transplants.
- 4. Determine appropriate plant spacing and planting arrangements for optimal crop production.
- 5. Prepare a raised garden bed.
- 6. Collect and analyze representative soil samples.
- 7. Amend soil with organic fertilizers to meet crop nutrient needs and pH preferences.
- 8. Determine optimal harvest time for a given crop.
- 9. Discuss effective storage requirements to eliminate crop deterioration.
- 10. Evaluate marketing channels appropriate to Sonoma County.
- 11. Determine crop density based on square footage of space available.
- 12. Identify pest pressures and apply appropriate pest management treatments.

Topics and Scope:

- I. Orientation to the Food Pyramid Garden (FPG)
- A. Background
- B. History of site
- C. Purpose
- D. Long-term vision
- E. Overview of Food Pyramid Garden components
- 1. grains
- 2. vegetables
- 3. fruit
- 4. protein
- 5. dairy

6. sugars and oils

- II. Farm Management/Planning
- A. Financial planning
 - 1. budget
 - 2. income/expense
 - 3. record keeping
- B. Community relations/outreach
- III. Soil Fertility Management
- A. Soil testing and analysis
 - 1. soil pH
 - 2. soil nutrients
- 3. percentage organic matter
- B. Organic soil amendments
- C. Cover crop planting
- D. Crop rotation
- **IV.** Cultural Practices
- A. Tillage
- B. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
 - 1. pest pressures
- 2. pest management treatments
- C. Irrigation
- D. Fertilization
 - 1. calculating material to meet crop nutrient needs
 - 2. application methods
- E. Cover crop incorporation
- V. Planting
- A. Appropriate crops
- B. Seeds
 - 1. ordering the appropriate seeds
- 2. proper storage
- C. Transplants
- D. Care of seedlings/transplants
- VI. Planting Plans
- A. Field layout
 - 1. spacing
 - 2. companion planting
 - 3. yield calculations
- B. Planting intervals for continuous harvest

Assignment:

Assignments may include:

- 1. Prepare potting mix based on crop and soil needs.
- 2. Develop an advertising tool for the FPG.
- 3. Prepare a detailed plot plan for planting various sections of the FPG.
- 4. Prepare a plot for planting.
- 5. Assigned reading, 15 20 pages per week.

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

None, This is a degree applicable course but assessment tools based on writing are not included because problem solving assessments are more appropriate for this course.

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Prepare potting mix; plot plan; advert. strategy.

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

None

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance and participation.

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Sustainable Vegetable Production from Start-up to Market. Vernon P. Grubinger. Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service (NRAES), 1999.

Sustainable Horticulture Today and Tomorrow. Poincelot, Raymond. Prentice Hall, 2004.

Web based materials.

Other Category 10 - 20%