

**SUSAG 119 Course Outline as of Fall 2012****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: SUSAG 119 Title: SPECIALTY CROP PROD

Full Title: Specialty Crop Production

Last Reviewed: 2/14/2022

| 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         | 0    | 10           | Lab Scheduled      | 0     |
|         |      | Contact DHR           | 1.00 |              | Contact DHR        | 17.50 |
|         |      | 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 251

**Catalog Description:**

Production of specialty horticulture crops including cultural practices, marketing and management decisions. Emphasis on Sonoma County fruit, vegetable and berry production for the gourmet market. Includes field trips and guest speakers.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:****Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

**Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: Production of specialty horticulture crops including cultural practices, marketing and management decisions. Emphasis on Sonoma County fruit, vegetable and berry production for the gourmet market. Includes field trips and guest speakers. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit:

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

|                   |                      |            |           |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>AS Degree:</b> | <b>Area</b>          | Effective: | Inactive: |
| <b>CSU GE:</b>    | <b>Transfer Area</b> | Effective: | Inactive: |

|               |                      |            |           |
|---------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>IGETC:</b> | <b>Transfer Area</b> | Effective: | Inactive: |
|---------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|

|                      |            |           |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>CSU Transfer:</b> | Effective: | Inactive: |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|

|                     |            |           |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>UC Transfer:</b> | 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. Develop a planting calendar for crop production.
2. Analyze a representative soil sample and assess texture, structure and components.
3. Recommend appropriate fertilization to create optimal garden soil conditions.
4. Properly prepare soil for planting.
5. Select appropriate seeds for intended crops.
6. Propagate plants by sexual and asexual means.
7. Discuss local marketing strategies for crops.
8. Apply appropriate weed and disease treatments.
9. Summarize the basic principles of irrigation and water management.
10. Apply appropriate amendments to ensure proper supply of nutrients to plants.
11. Summarize the basics of successful herb cultivation.
12. Discuss varieties of flowers well suited for cut-flower production.

### **Topics and Scope:**

I. Introduction to Organic Gardening and Sustainable Food Production

II. Gardening Basics

A. Defining Organic

B. Climate

C. Planting Calendar

D. Planning

III. Soil

A. Soil analysis

1. Soil texture

2. Soil structure

3. Soil organic matter

4. Using a soil survey map

B. Soil fertility

1. Essential plant nutrients
  2. Soil pH
  3. Fertilization of garden soils
- IV. Preparing the Soil
- A. Cultivation
  - B. Tillage
- V. Seeds
- A. Obtaining
  - B. Selecting
  - C. Storing
  - D. Sowing seeds for cool season crops
- VI. Plant Propagation
- A. Sexual
  - B. Asexual
- VII. Marketing
- A. Local marketing strategies
    1. Contract marketing
    2. Farm Trails
    3. Industry partnerships
  - B. Advertising
  - C. Other
- VIII. Water Management
- A. Watering
  - B. Water Quality
  - C. Irrigation
- IX. Crops
- A. Cool season vegetables
  - B. Warm season vegetables
  - B. Fruits and berries
  - C. Cover crops
  - D. Nutrient management
    1. Amendments
    2. Composting
    3. Green manures
- X. Pest Management
- A. Insects
  - B. Vertebrate pests
  - C. Weeds
  - D. Diseases
- XI. Herb and Cut Flower Production
- XII. Organic Certification

**Assignment:**

Assignments may include:

1. Reading, 20 - 30 pages per week.
2. Notebook: maintain a notebook of lecture notes, weekly handouts, and notes on garden activities, field trips and speakers. Will be graded as mid-term progress report.
3. Written report (4 pages) on an actual or fictitious farm operation.
4. Oral presentation on written report.
5. Final exam.

## 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.

Notebook notes; report.

Writing  
20 - 30%

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

None

Problem solving  
0 - 0%

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

Class performances, Field work

Skill Demonstrations  
20 - 30%

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

Multiple choice, True/false, Matching items, Completion,  
SHORT ANSWER

Exams  
20 - 30%

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

Attendance and participation.

Other Category  
15 - 25%

## Representative Textbooks and Materials:

SPECIALTY AND MINOR CROPS. University of California Ag/NR publication 3346, 1998.

GOLDEN GATE GARDENING. Pam Pierce, Sasquatch Books, 1998.

CALIFORNIA MASTER GARDENER HANDBOOK. Dennis R. Pittenger (editor). University of California Ag/NR Publication 3382, 2002.

GARDENER'S TABLE. Richard Merrill and Joe Ortiz, Ten Speed Press, 2000.

SUSTAINABLE VEGETABLE PRODUCTION FROM START-UP TO MARKET. Vernon P. Grubinger, Natural Resource, Agriculture and Engineering Service (NRAES), 1999.