SUSAG 111 Course Outline as of Fall 2005

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: SUSAG 111 Title: ORGANIC CROP PLANNING
Full Title: Organic Crop Planning
Last Reviewed: 2/14/2005

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	2.00	Lecture Scheduled	4.00	8	Lecture Scheduled	32.00
Minimum	2.00	Lab Scheduled	0	7	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	4.00		Contact Total	32.00
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 64.00 Total Student Learning Hours: 96.00

Title 5 Category:	AA Degree Applicable
Grading:	Grade Only
Repeatability:	00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP
Also Listed As:	
Formerly:	AG 297.54S

Catalog Description:
Course covers crop selection, cultural practices and planning for organic production of vegetable, fruit and grain crops in small commercial operations. Shone Farm's Food Pyramid Garden serves as a case study.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

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

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: Course covers crop selection, cultural practices and planning for organic production of vegetable, fruit and grain crops in small commercial operations. Shone Farm's Food Pyramid Garden serves as a case study. (Grade Only)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:
Recommended: Course Completion or Concurrent Enrollment in SUSAG 110 (or AG 121)
Limits on Enrollment:

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

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	**Area**	Effective:	Inactive:
CSU GE:	**Transfer Area**	Effective:	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. Plan and manage a small commercial garden.
2. Interpret soil test results.
3. Recommend a plan for appropriate soil fertility management.
4. Discuss the role of and methods for crop rotation.
5. Suggest appropriate cover crops for a given garden plot.
6. Select crops and formulate a planting plan.
7. Recommend methods and structures to extend the growing season.
8. Evaluate pest control needs and recommend appropriate pest management procedures.
9. Determine cost of production for various farm enterprises.
10. Compare and contrast the benefits of planting from seed or transplants.
11. Discuss methods for producing transplants for planting.

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 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
V. Crop Selection
 A. Appropriate crops
 B. Seeds
  1. ordering the appropriate seeds
  2. proper storage
 C. Transplants
 D. Care of seedlings/transplants
 E. Bare root fruit trees
 F. Growing Season Extension
VI. Planting Plans
 A. Field layout
  1. spacing
  2. companion planting
  3. yield calculations
 B. Planting intervals for continuous harvest
VII. Harvesting the Crop
 A. When to harvest
 B. How to harvest
 C. Sequence of harvest
 D. Harvest frequency
 E. Post-harvest crop storage

Assignment:

Assignments may include:
1. Reading, 15 - 20 pages per week.
2. Interpret soil test results and develop a written soil fertility management plan (1-2 pages).
3. Plan a section of the Food Pyramid Garden (FPG), proposing appropriate

design features and a planting plan.
4. Create a production and marketing plan for a section of the FPG.
5. Develop a self-guided tour brochure for the FPG.

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.

Tour brochure for FPG.	Writing 20 - 30%

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

Section plan for FPG; production & marketing plan.	Problem solving 40 - 50%

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

None	Skill Demonstrations 0 - 0%

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

None	Exams 0 - 0%

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

Attendance and participation.	Other Category 20 - 30%

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.