Organic Farming and Gardening – Spring 2007
Syllabus

Oregon State University – Department of Horticulture

Course Numbers HORT 260 CRN:
Course Credits: 3 credits

Meeting Time & Room: Lectures: M 1:00- 2:50 Nash 204
Lab: W 1:00-2:50 Nash 204 or Oak Creek Farm

Instructor: Stefan Seiter
ST-205 - LBCC Main Campus Albany
Phone (voice mail): (541) 917-4765
E-mail address: HYPERLINK "mailto:stefan.seiter@linnbenton.edu" stefan.seiter@linnbenton.edu
Website: http://cf.linnbenton.edu/mathsci/aghort/seiters

Office Hours: T 9:00 – 9:50; T 3:00-3:50; F 9:00-9:50 (at LBCC)
W 3:00-4:00 (after Wednesday lab at OSU)

Disabilities: Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations approved by Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). If you are eligible and have obtained approval from SSD, please contact me during the first week of class to discuss accommodations. If you think you might qualify but have not yet obtained approval from SSD, call them at 737-4098.

Course Description Organic farming and gardening methods are discussed in class and practiced in the field. The philosophical background of organic farming as well as the biological, environmental and social factors involved in organic food production are covered. Emphasis is on hands-on application of scientific principles to create sustainable food production systems.

.**Course Outcomes** The successful completion of this course will enable you to:
Discuss the biological principles of organic and other ecological approaches in agriculture
Practice farming and gardening methods that sustain profitable production, communities, and environmental health.

Understand the role organically produced food can play in our diets and communities.

Course Materials: Required**:** Readings on **Blackboard**, on-line, or on reserve in the library.
Recommended: *Organic Farming* by N. Lampkin; *The New Organic Grower* by E. Coleman; *Agroecology* by S. Glissman

Course Evaluation You will be evaluated through quizzes, lab reports, an individual project and a group project. Make-up quizzes and extensions for assignments will be made available only to students who let the instructor know before the class if you are unable to attend a quiz (via email, phone, or in person) or if you are unable to turn in assignments on time. Labs can not be made up. Keep track of your grades in exams and assignments.

Grades: The grading system for the course is "A-F". Final grades will be based on the percentage of total points earned.
A = 90% and above; B = 80 to 89%; C = 70 to 79%; D = 60 to 69%; F = 59% and below

Quizzes	>	40 %
Lab Reports	>	30 %
Individual Project	>	15 %
Group Project	>	15 %

Student Integrity: All students are expected to take tests with integrity, jeopardizing neither their own honesty nor that of other students.

Organic Farming and Gardening Projects

Individual Project

The goal of this project is to complete an organic agriculture activity that is meaningful to you or to a community you interact with. You can choose among many projects. Ideas include but are not limited to: (1) growing an organic crop that is not included in the general planting at the Oak Creek Farm organic garden while researching and documenting organic growing techniques; (2) keeping a journal that tracks the food you consume as well as the food

ingredients and agricultural inputs to produce the food; (3) building a compost bin; or (4) working with kids to plant an organic garden in a local school. Before you start discuss the project with the instructor and follow the timeline below.

Elements of the project:

Proposal
Title and short description
Due April 10 (Week 2)

Activity
Two updates of activities to instructor
Due May 4 (Week 5) and May 22 (Week 8)

Written report 2-4 pages (typed)
Reflection on the project
Due June 5 (Week 10)

Group Project

Throughout the first 5 weeks of the quarter we will be planting and seeding various crops at the Oak Creek Farm organic garden. The crop species are selected for their early season growth potential. The crop selection is also coordinated with potential customers.

You have to form groups of 3-5 and will be responsible to care for a garden plot that is assigned to you. The care includes planting, weeding, fertilizing, pest management and harvesting.

At the end of the term, the instructor and the groups will collaboratively evaluate the crops for yield, uniformity, and pest damage. In addition you will have an opportunity to individually reflect on the group dynamics.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week/Date
Lecture
Lab
Reading Assignment
1
04/03
Course Introduction
Agroecology
Propagation of Organic Crops
Organic Crop Production Overview pg 1-8 (pdf)

Blackboard

2

04/10

Quiz I

Organic and other
Eco Ag Approaches

Planning a vegetable garden
Early Crops: Seeding and Transplanting
1) Soil Quality Introduction 2) Soil Quality Evaluation 3) Organic Matter
Blackboard

3

04/17

Quiz II

Soil Quality and Ecology
Soil Quality Evaluation
Weed Control Experiments
Sustainable Soil Management pg 1-13 (pdf)
Blackboard

4

04/24

Quiz III

Soil Fertility Management
Compost Recipes and Application
Guidelines for Organic Fertilization
Blackboard

5

05/01

Quiz IV

Crop Rotation and Cover Crops

Later Crops: Seeding and Transplanting

Overview of Cover Crops and Green Manures (pdf) **Blackboard**

6

05/08

Quiz V

Seed biology - Genetic Resources
Field trip –
Organic Production
Genetic Resources in Agroecosystems
On Reserve

7

05/15
Quiz VI
Arthropods /Pathogens Pest Mgmt
Organic Pest Control
Organic Pest Management
Blackboard

8
05/22
Quiz VII
Ecological Weed Mgmt
Weed ID - Weed Control Tools and Practice
Principles of Sustainable Weed Management **Blackboard**

9
05/29
Quiz VIII
Animals in Sustainable Ag
Organic Food Quality and Human Health
Role of Animals in Sustainable Agriculture **On Reserve**
10
06/05
Sustainable Food Systems
Student Presentations
The Foodshed
Blackboard

Note: Dates may change depending on the progress toward learning outcomes and needs of students and the instructor.