

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE SYLLABUS

Semester (TBD)

COURSE NO.: AGNR 175 **COURSE TITLE:** AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

UNITS: 3

SECTION NO. 54106

CLASS HOURS: TBD

INSTRUCTOR NAME: NEVILLE SLADE **OFFICE NO:** BUILDING 60B (LOWER CAMPUS) **TEL. EXT.:**2698

E-MAIL ADDRESS: neville.slade@vvc.edu

COURSE CALENDAR

TBD

STATEMENT OF ACCESS: *Students with special needs are encouraged to meet with instructors to discuss the opportunity for academic accommodation and referral to Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) and services per Administrative Procedure (AP 3440)*

Visit Victor Valley College online at www.vvc.edu

Prerequisite:

None

Textbook:

Field Guide to California Agriculture, Paul F Starrs and Peter Goin, University of California Press,

ISBN # 978-0-520-26543-1

*Supplementary Text not required; Sustaining the Earth, G Tyler Miller, Thomson Books, ISBN # 0-495-01597-0
10th or 11th edition*

Course Description: *This course explores the sociology of agriculture presented through an examination of relationships between societies and their environments, economics, and agriculture. Emphasis on the analysis of agriculture's use of technology and the corresponding impact on the environment, economy, society and sustainable development.*

Course Objectives:

1. *Discuss the historical and geographical relationship between agriculture, the environment and a given society.*
2. *Balance the trade-offs in economic, social and environmental health that are needed to achieve a sustainable world food supply.*
3. *Evaluate the need for integrating farming into ecosystems and developing an "Agroecosystem" in a particular environment*
4. *Discuss the global development of production, processing, and distribution methods for various agricultural products.*
5. *Describe the major types, operational and functional aspects of producing food*
6. *Evaluate the relationship between immigration, labor, agriculture, and politics, and interpret the contributions that California's ethnic and cultural populations have made to agriculture.*
7. *Outline the development of agriculture and its effect on the environment.*
8. *Describe the changing nature of rural society*
9. *Interpret future trends in agriculture and the nature of current ethical issues in agriculture and sustainable development.*

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course the student can:

1. *Collect, analyze, and evaluate information on current agricultural, environmental and social issues.*
2. *Evaluate the values and principles that enhance a community wide sustainability ethic.*
3. *Select safe and appropriate use of sustainable agricultural practices, and technologies.*

Attendance Policy: *(Class attendance is not a measure of performance or proficiency. Whether a student is just physically present in the class is not a valid basis for grading. Reference Title 5 Section 55002 of the California Code of Regulations: (A) Grading Policy. The course provides for measurement of student performance in terms of stated course objectives and culminates in a formal, permanently recorded grade based upon uniform standards in accordance with section 55758 of this Division. The grade is based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter and the ability to demonstrate that proficiency, at least in part, by means of written expression that may include essays, or, in courses where the curriculum committee deems them to be appropriate, by problem solving exercises or skills demonstrations by students.*

Class Management and Learning Notes

Conservation and Sustainability have rapidly taken center stage as American's struggle to adapt to our recent economic meltdown and a realization that we have been living beyond our means. To keep pace with this "Green Revolution" you will have to learn the language/vocabulary and "thinking" of environmental science and sustainability in the context of sustainable development.

This class will have many new terms and principles and will most probably require more hours of study than some of you are accustomed to putting in. My experience is that you will need to devote 12 - 16 hours per week (three to four hours for each unit) beyond the time spent in class, to study and the completion of the on-line assignments. . You will get out of this class what you put in and because we add in a large California and local/Mojave Desert focus, you must do the assigned reading in the book (a moot point if you are taking this class

On-line or Hybrid). This is an extremely diverse subject and although you will automatically focus on your own areas of interest/experience, please be aware that this is a very diverse subject and we are trying to develop a matrix of knowledge and the interconnections that will allow you to become a competent Environmental Scientist with a good “working” understanding of Sustainable Agriculture. The AGNR department also seeks to prepare you for a exciting and rapidly expanding “Greena Career” in natural resource management, if that is your goal.

Please read and follow the Syllabus especially the Class Schedule (last page) and the Study Guide closely. This is an 8 week class, so it is extremely important to keep up with the class assignments- Student project, Discussion Boards, Position papers and assessments. Assignments are made available for very specific time frames and you will be unable to make up the work if you miss them. The exception is written email explanations to me before the item is due.

Need Help You have two options:

- 1. For any Blackboard or computer compatibility questions, please call the Web Advisor-Help Desk at 760-245-4271 ext.4788 (4STU) or email at helpdesk@yvc.edu. This will include if you are having trouble accessing a quiz or completing an assignment on-line, I will refer your emails on these problems to them. Also make sure that you have checked that VVC/BlackBoard has the correct e-mail address for you, so that you get my weekly announcements/updates by e-mail. You can change it yourself on the first page when you log on to Blackboard under “personal information”.*
- 2. Please contact me by e-mail (I am able to answer my office phone only during office hours) or in class with any questions about the class itself- the curriculum and what the assignments and expectations are. Please try to answer the question yourself by reading the syllabus, study guide or my weekly updates before emailing me- I receive a large # of e-mails and want to be sure I can handle the most pressing problems. Please specify your student number, class name and section number in each e-mail so that I can identify you.*

Tip: It is extremely important to read the Syllabus and Study Guide very carefully before you begin this class, I also recommend entering the assignment due dates in your personal calendar.

Quizzes, Exams and Extra Credit

a. Quizzes: (4 @25 pts. each, drop your lowest score, Total of 75 pts.)

See "Course Schedule" at the end of this document for exact dates

Each quiz will cover material from the previous two weeks reading, lecture/Powerpoint and discussion.

Important Note: the Powerpoint lectures are available under "Assignments" in Blackboard, include extra information (often the local Mojave perspective) and are part of the required study for this class.

b. Exams

The mid-term and the final (50 and 100 pts. each respectively)

c. Extra Credit

Completion of a second Student Sustainable Agriculture project-no oral presentation required

Or two Field trip or guest lecture reports- 2 pages each (35 pts possible)

Class Assignments

(see Study Guide for more complete instructions)

The assignments for this class are intended to be diverse to ensure your engagement on-line and include Discussion Boards, that may be new to you and deserve special explanation.

a. Discussion Boards (2 at 30pts-60 pts total)

Students are required to do research and engage in a discussion with the class online - a great place to test your ideas but please be kind and respectful to the opinions of others. This assignment is intended to hone your skills as a responsible citizen, so that you can make an impact on the sustainability of our world and your local community.

When are they due?

The two topics will be posted on Monday mornings and open for two weeks until 2weeks Monday at 11 PM

How many posts?

You will be required to make one post (your own discussion) and two replies/comments on the posts of other students per assignment.

How long should your post be?

Long enough to thoroughly cover the subject- Two paragraphs (six to 10 sentences) with approximately 140 words...at least. The replies may be much shorter-2-3 sentences

Grading

Twenty (20) pts for your post, 5 pts for each reply, based on the amount of thought applied, not on how long they are. Total of 30 points each

Note: Discussion Board question will be posted in "Discussions" section of Blackboard-see the Schedule at the end of this Syllabus for exact due dates. More information available in the Study Guide for this class.

b. Position paper (1@30 pts. total) –see study Guide and hand out.

You will be asked to complete 1 position paper on a key agricultural issues- for 30 points total. Paper will be 1-2 pages, single space, 12 font

Definition: A position paper is an essay that presents an opinion about an issue, typically that of the author or another specified entity; such as a political party. Position papers are published in academia, in politics, in law and other domains. Position papers range from the simplest format of a letter to the editor through to the most complex in the form of an academic position paper.^[1] Position papers are also used by large organizations to make public the official beliefs and recommendations of the group

c. **Student presentation/paper** (100 pts.)—see Study Guide and hand out

Grading

Policy:

90-100% = A

80- 89% = B

70- 79% = C

60- 69% = D

<59% = Fail

Assignments/Points

Quizzes (Three @ 25 pts. each, drop lowest) 50

Mid-term..... 50

Final 100

Student Presentation 100

Discussion Board 2 @ 30 pts)..... 60

Position Papers (1@30 pts.)..... 30

Total Points 390

Course Schedule

Week	Homework	Lecture/PowerPoint	Assessment
TBD	Read: Text pg 3- 39 Intro to California AG Overview of Sustain Dev. (Ch 1 and 14- “Sustaining the Earth”)	Personal Intro and Syllabus Lecture 1: Intro to Ag Sustainability Lecture 2: Intro to CA Agriculture (pg. 3- 22)	
TBD	Class Cancelled		

TBD	<p>Read text pg 39-71</p> <p>Discussion Board 1 open two weeks till TBD</p> <p>Position Paper #1- Ag Practices as Barriers to Sustainability presented Due TBD</p>	<p>Lecture 3: Overview of Sustain Dev. (Ch 1 and 14, Sustaining the Earth)</p> <p>Lecture 4: History and Future (pg. 22-39)</p> <p>Lecture 5: Intro to Global Food and Agriculture</p> <p>Videos: NRCS; Does it matter how our food is Produced; Corizon Vacquero</p> <p>Demonstration: Tour Department-Raised Bed Garden and Hydroponics Unit- Jonathan Cook</p>	<p>Quiz 1 In Class</p> <p>Text pg. 3- 39; Sust. Earth Ch.1</p> <p>Lecture 1, 2</p>
TBD	<p>Read text pg 369-414</p>	<p>Lecture 6: Sustainable Agriculture in CA (Pg 39-71)</p> <p>Lecture 8: Régional Production (pg 369-414)</p> <p>Lecture 9: Composting and Natural Fertilizers</p> <p>Guest Lecture: NRCS</p>	<p>Quiz 2 In Class</p> <p>Text pg. 39- 71; Sust. Earth (Ch. 1,14)</p> <p>Lecture 3,4,5</p>
TBD	<p>Read text pg 369-414- regions</p> <p>Read text pg. 147-168- tree crops, almonds, apples, apricots, avocados, cherries</p> <p>Read text pg 369-414</p> <p>Read text pg 183-186- lemons, pg.191-210- olives, oranges, peaches, pears, pecans, pistachio</p> <p>Position Paper #1 presented in class</p> <p>Position Paper #2 assigned</p> <p>Discussion Board 1 due</p> <p>End of First 4 Weeks</p>	<p>Lecture 7: Soil Sustainability and Tillage Desertification</p> <p>Video: Desertification https://www.ted.com/talks/allan_savory_how_to_green_the_world_s_deserts_and_reverse_climate_change?language=en</p> <p>Lecture 10: Water Management. And Irrigation.</p> <p>Video: California Water story</p> <p>Lecture 11 : Sustainable-Intensive Crop Production</p> <p>Video: Seeds of a New Era GMO's Amazing Grains Seeds of Hope</p> <p>Guest lecture: NRCS</p>	<p>Quiz 3 In Class</p> <p>Text pg. 39- 71</p> <p>Lecture 6,7,8,9</p>

TBD	<p>Discussion Board 2 opens till YBD</p> <p>Read text pg. 103-131- livestock- bees,cattle/beef, cattle/dairy, cheese, chickens/meat, chickens/eggs,</p> <p>Pg. 136-145- honey, oysters, sheep/lambs</p>	<p>Lecture 12 : Other Aspects of Sust. AG and GMO's</p> <p>Lecture 13: Field_ Row_Root Crops;Tree Crops Movie</p> <p>Lecture 14 : Ag Production – Animals</p> <p>Video: Malapai Borderlands Case study</p> <p>Guest lecture: Jujubees.....</p>	<p>Mid-term (see Study Guide) In class</p>
TBD	<p>Field Studies Trip leaves aTBD</p>	<p>10 AM-Noon- Hinkley Dairy, Johnson Farming</p> <p>Newberry Springs- Cleveland Farming</p>	
TBD	<p>Discussion Board 2 due</p> <p>Position Paper #2 due</p>	<p>Lecture 15: Animal Production in Mojave</p> <p>Student presentations</p> <p>Lecture 16: Organic Agriculture</p> <p>Lecture 17: Integrated Pest Management</p> <p>Quest lecture: Earl Graham- Sustainable Animal Production- confirmed 10 am</p>	
TBD		<p>Student presentations</p>	<p>Final All material form quizzes and Mid Term and lecture 15, 16</p>