9-2013

ENST 594.03: Agroecology

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ENST 594.03 - Agroecology
Tue./Thurs. 12:40-2:00p.m.
Gallagher Building #225

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Ethan Smith
E-mail: ethan.smith@mso.umt.edu

Office Hours: Tue 11:00-12:30 or by appt.
Office: Rankin Hall - EVST 101

Course Texts: The official text for the majority of this course will be *Agroecology: The Ecology of Sustainable Food Systems:* Second Edition (S.R. Gliessman, 2006). The bookstore will not carry the text this fall, and thus the following options are available:

1) Purchase (or rent) the text via online sources such as Amazon.com, Powells.com, etc.
2) Use the copy on course reserve at the Main Library. This will be available for short-term use to either read or photocopy.

I realize that this is short notice, and that shipping can take a week or more. Thus, hard-copies of the first few weeks of readings will be made available to you in class. Supplemental readings will be posted online through the E-reserve system at least one week prior to their assigned reading dates. will be handed out in class, or will be e-mailed to you.

Attendance and Participation

Regular course attendance and participation is ***mandatory****, and will account for* ***10% of the total course grade.*** The principles of Agroecology are interconnected and build upon one another. Thus, students are expected to make up any missed readings and obtain notes from fellow classmates prior to the next scheduled class period.

The quality of our in-class discussions depends upon your ability to be prepared and engaged each day. While some teachers love nothing more than to lecture without ceasing for 90 minutes at a stretch, I prefer to let discussion and student input drive a portion of this class. Please complete any assigned readings PRIOR to the corresponding class period so that we can push our discussions as far as possible.

Assignments

- Students are expected to have completed assigned readings before class begins each day. Quizzes that cover these readings will be given periodically during the semester, as noted on the syllabus. Quizzes are given at the beginning of the class period and may not be made-up in the event of un-excused absence.
- Assignments will be due at the **beginning** of class on the day that they are due. Late assignments will lose 10% for each day that they are late.
- All assignments not completed in class must be in typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font format.
- Some assignments, including the debate project, may involve group work and/or group participation. While groups shall receive one collective grade, any individual(s) deemed to have shirked their portion of work will receive a grade commensurate with their effort.

Course Evaluation/Assignment Value

• Class Participation	40 pts
• Quizzes/in-class assignments (4)	90 pts
• Group Debates	120 pts
• Final Exam/project	150 pts
Total	400 pts

Grading Scale:

Grade	Point Total
A	360-400
B	320-359
C	280-319
D	240-279
Fail	Below 240

Academic Conduct:

Though it should be understood without bring stated, the submission of any work that is not originally your own shall constitute plagiarism and be treated as academic misconduct. This includes the copying of any homework, sharing answers during quizzes or exams, or submitting written work without the clear citation of your sources. Scientific and academic fraud not only diminishes the reputation of an individual, but can tarnish the work of other, honest scientists working within the field. It's not worth it. For the sake of scientific truth, and the sake of your grade, don't do it.

Students wishing to clarify rules regarding plagiarism and/or academic misconduct should consult section IV of the University of Montana Code of Conduct.

Tentative Course Schedule*

***dates subject to change with reasonable notice**

Day/Date	Class Topic	Reading	Quiz/Exam
Tue. Aug. 27	Introductions, Syllabus, Course Goals, etc.		
Thurs. Aug 29	The Agroecosystem Concept	GL p23-34	
	Principles of Agroecology		
Tue. Sept 3	**Plants** – Photosynthesis	GL p35-42	
Thurs. Sept 5	**Plants** – Nutrients **Light** - Quality, Day Length,	GL p43-57	
Tue. Sept 10	Finish **Light,** introduce:**Soil**	GL p99-114	**Quiz - 25pts**
Thurs. Sept 12	**Soil** - Structure, Chemistry, Intro to Nutrient Cycling		
Tue. Sept 17	**Soil** - Composting		
Thurs. Sept 19	**Soil** - Nutrient Cycling, Soil Water	GL p115-127	
Tue. Sept 24	**Field Trip/Catch-up w/ schedule**		
Thurs. Sept 26	**Weather -** Temperature	GL p59-72	**Quiz – 25pts.**
Tue. Oct 1	**Weather -** Wind, Precipitation, and Temperature	GL p73-98	
Thurs. Oct 3	**Biotic Factors** – Organism-Organism Interactions	GL 147-161	
Tue. Oct 8	Introduce Debate Project and Lit. Research Methods		
Thurs. Oct 10	**Biotic Factors –** Allelopathy		
Tue. Oct 15	**Biotic Factors –** Fungi and Pathogens		**Quiz – 40pts**
Thurs. Oct 17	**Debate Project Work Day**		
Tue. Oct 22	**Populations, Dispersal, and Niches**	GL 171-182	
	Agroecosystem Interactions and Structure		
Thurs. Oct 24	**Species-Level Interactions**	GL 205-216	
Tue. Oct 29	**Guest Speaker**		
Thurs. Oct 31	**Plant Pathogens**		
Tue. Nov 6	**Genetics and Plant Breeding**		
	Management, Application, and Practical Agroecology		
Thurs. Nov 8	**Integrated Pest Management**		
Tue. Nov 13	In-Class Debates		
Thurs. Nov 15	In-Class Debates		
Tue. Nov 20	In-Class Debates		
Thurs. Nov 22	In-Class Debates		
Tue. Nov 27	**TBD**		
Thurs. Nov 29	**<<<Thanksgiving Holiday - No Class>>>**		
Tue. Dec 4	**TBD**		
Thurs. Dec 6	**TBD**		
Tues. Dec 10	**Final Exam 10:10-12:10**		**Final 100pts**