

Syllabus for SMGT 250 Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

Course Description

Prerequisite: SMGT 115

This course offers an in-depth assessment of the economic, social, and environmental considerations of production agricultural systems that provide safe, reliable, and affordable food supplies for a growing human population. In addition to the maintenance of the economic viability of production agricultural systems, course topics will focus on the maintenance of soil, water, and air resources; addressing issues of biodiversity loss; and, maintenance of rural community character and economies. Economic, regulatory, and public entity tools that promote sustainability in production agriculture will also be addressed.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Explain the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of our current production agricultural systems
- Describe the historical development of sustainability concepts as they apply to food production.
- Analyze how market dynamics and trends, from local food production systems to globalization, impact the ability to provide an adequate and affordable food supply.
- Summarize tools and techniques available to maintain soil, water, air, and habitat quality in a production agriculture setting.
- Articulate knowledge of agriculture's role in maintaining rural communities.

Course Materials

Information on course materials can be found in the [textbook section](#) of the SMGT website.

Course Requirements

This course will consist of time commitments to accommodate reading, commentaries and online projects and assessments. Stay informed of required workloads by referencing the course **Announcements** and **Course Calendar**. Consider engaging in the commentaries followed by reading referenced text chapters for optimum comprehension.

This course is comprised of 15 lessons with corresponding commentaries. Additionally, you'll complete five assignments to facilitate more in-depth topic exploration. Rubrics are provided to detail assignment requirements and point values.

Exams

There are three scheduled exams. Each exam is non-comprehensive, and worth 50 points for a total of 150 exam points. These exams are open book/notes with a 50-minute time limit.

Quizzes

There will be three quizzes administered during the course each worth 25 points for a total of 75 quiz points. Quizzes are open book/notes with a 25-minute time limit. Practice quiz questions are provided in the course. Answer keys to the practice quizzes will be provided every week.

Discussions

Each student will be tasked with serving as a discussion leader for a topic selected from a set of provided discussion questions. The student/discussion leader will post a response and facilitate an exchange of related ideas from other course participants. Each student discussion leader will moderate the active discussion and promote critical analysis. Rubrics will be accessible to detail format and corresponding assignment point values (65 points).

Individual Learning Activities

Five individual learning activity assignments (110 points) will be administered at various times during this course. These assignments will consist of written reaction papers to provided current topics that are relevant to Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security. Rubrics will be available on-line detailing format, requirements and point values. Assignments are expected to be submitted on time with a 50% point deduction for late assignments submitted within the deadline week. All other late work will receive a grade of 0.

Course Requirements

Grades will be determined on the basis of the total number of points earned for assigned individual projects, discussion questions, quizzes, and exams.

Activity	Possible Points
Exams (3 @ 50 points each)	150 points
Quizzes (3 @ 25 points each)	75 points
Individual Learning Activities (5 @ 10–25 points each)	110 points
Discussion Questions (20 points for original posting; 45 points total for responses to postings @ 15 points per unit)	65 points
Total Points	400 points

Grading Scale

- A 94–100% of total points possible (376–400 points)
- A- 90%–93% of total points possible (360–375 points)
- B+ 87–89% of total points possible (348–359 points)
- B 84–86% of total points possible (336–347 points)
- B- 80–83% of total point possible (320–335 points)
- C+ 77–79% of total points possible (308–319 points)
- C 74–76% of total points possible (296–307 points)
- C- 70–73% of total points possible (280–295 points)
- D+ 67–69% of total points possible (268–279 points)
- D 64–66% of total points possible (256–267 points)
- D- 60–63% of total points possible (240–255 points)
- F 59% (and below) of total points possible (less than 240 points)