

Sustainable and Environmental Horticulture Systems Horticulture 424/524 - Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Cynthia Haynes
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Office Hours: Mon/Wed 2-3pm, Tues/Thurs 9–11am, or by appointment

Lecture: Monday and Wednesday
1:10-2:00
Rm. 138 Horticulture Hall

Texts: *Required:*
A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold (1966) *and*
Silent Spring by Rachel Carson (1962)

Course Description:

This course is designed as an inquiry into the ethical, social, and environmental consequences of horticultural cropping systems and production practices. The first part of the course acquaints students with the historical aspects of sustainability and the development of the critical issues and policies facing sustainability in horticulture. The second part of the course focuses on production and management strategies that are resource efficient, environmentally sound, socially acceptable, and profitable for many of the different commodity areas of horticulture.

Expected Outcomes:

After successfully completing Hort. 424/524, each student will be able to:

- Impartially define the many aspects of sustainability, in general, and more specifically explain sustainable practices in horticulture production and management systems
- Accurately analyze a site and recommend appropriate sustainable practices and/or management
- Confidently communicate with others about issues and practices in sustainable horticulture

Special Note:

Students with any special needs or special accommodations need to make arrangements to see me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as possible. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) from the Disability Resources (DR) office (515-294-6642). DR is located in Room 1076 of the Student Services Building.

Course Requirements:

Exams: *No make-up exams will be given, except for death in the family, serious illness, severe weather, or at the discretion of the instructor. Exams will be worth 100 points each and will primarily contain essay type questions. Exams will be “take-home”. While students will be encouraged to look at notes and even discuss exam questions/answers with each other, the final product should be an independent write-up. Two exams and 1 final exam will be given. Exams will cover material presented in lecture, required*

texts, and other reading assignments. *The final exam is cumulative.*

Project and Presentation: Working in groups, students will create a short video (<10 min.) describing a specific sustainable aspect at Iowa State University. Videos will be viewed in the last 3 classes. (100 points)

Factsheet: Working individually, students will create a brief factsheet on a pre-approved aspect of sustainability. Factsheets will be peer-reviewed prior to final submission. (100 points total)

Worksheets: Working individually, students will complete 4 worksheets related to specific reading assignments. Each accurately completed worksheet is worth 25 points. (100 points total)

Site Analysis/Critique: Working individually, students will be instructed to analyze an existing site and recommend appropriate and sustainable practices. (50 points)

Professionalism: Appropriate professional behaviors and work are expected for all lectures. Practicing appropriate behaviors in this (and all) classes will help you in your future career and workplace. Components of the professionalism grade include: arriving to class on time, being engaged in lectures, completing assignments on time, being honest and conscientious in your work and learning, being respectful of others in class, and working effectively in groups. Professionalism for this class will be tracked through attendance. Attendance will taken at the beginning of each class, students that are late or who fail to attend a class will be docked 50 points for each absence. (100 points)

Course Points:	Assignment	Pts.	%
	Hour Exams (3 x 100)	300	40
	Project and Presentation	100	13
	Final Factsheet	75	10
	Factsheet Peer Review	25	4
	Site Analysis/Critique	50	7
	Worksheets (4@25pts each)	100	13
	Professionalism	100	13
	Total points	750	

Grade scale:	%		
A	100-93		
A-	92-90		
B+	89-87		
B	86-83		
B-	82-80		
C+	79-77		
C	76-73		
C-	72-70		
D+	69-67		
D	66-63		
D-	62-60	F	<60

**Horticulture 524 Students
Fall 2009**

Graduate students will be expected to complete and participate in all assignments listed in the course syllabus. Your experience and guidance are invaluable for many of these projects and assignments. In addition to the above assignment, graduate students are expected to complete the following:

Development of Case Study in Sustainable Horticulture: Each graduate student will develop a case study to teach about an aspect of sustainability in a specific aspect of horticulture. Topics must be pre approved by Dr. Haynes. Case studies will be typed and will include all accompanying materials. *Case study topics will be due on September 28th. Completed case studies will be due December 9th.* (200 points)

Course Points:	Assignment	Pts.	%
	Hour Exams (3 x 100)	300	32
	Case Study	200	20
	Project and Presentation	100	11
	Final Factsheet	75	7
	Factsheet Peer Review	25	3
	Site Analysis/Critique	50	5
	Worksheets (4 @25pts each)	100	11
	Professionalism	100	11
	Total points	950	