



Course Outline

(6 Sept; preliminary and to be revised; more details on course web page, in class, and other handouts).

Ecology and Agriculture looks at agriculture as a set of ecological systems and practices. It refers to ecology in both the sense of interactions between organisms (e.g., crops, pests, and predators) and their environment, and in the larger-scale sense of environmental impacts and related social and political issues. A broad range of topics will be covered, including pesticides and alternatives, soil fertility and erosion, the role of animals, genetically modified crops, world hunger, global vs. local trade and more. The course work will consist of readings, discussion, written assignments (with revisions as needed), work at the Hampshire farm, group and independent projects, guest lectures and films, and field trips. There can be field work, so always be prepared to walk and be outside (e.g., sun screen/rain gear, sensible shoes). Some field work may include other times and days to be arranged in class.

Readings.

* Books (available in the Hampshire bookstore):

Kimbell, A., Ed. 2002. *The Fatal Harvest Reader: The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture*. Island Press. [abbr. as FHR]

Note. There is a larger, illustrated (beautiful but more expensive as well as bulky) version of this book also available, if you prefer.

Brooklyn Botanical Garden. 1994. *Natural Insect Control*. [abbr. as NIC]

Pollan, M. *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. Penguin Press, N.Y. [abbr. as OD]

* Readings On-Line [OL]

The course web page can be found at
www.hampshire.edu

|academics |Courses |Hampshire Course Web Sites |Natural Science
|Agric... (NS-0150) Go to the course website...

Login with the Username and Password that you use for your Hampshire mail
or that I will give you in class (especially **5-college students**; usually I start with
first initial and last name for both Username and Password for 5-college students).

You need Adobe reader on your computer (free download from Adobe.com)

More on all this in class...

* Reserve Readings [RR]. Some readings may be placed on reserve in the Hampshire library.

*Required reserve readings are to be copied for your own use or read only in the library right
by the copy machines, so that everyone can always find them!*

* Handouts [H]. Some readings, and writing assignments too, will be handed out in class.

Keep all handouts in a notebook to bring with you to class each day.

Requirements for evaluation include the timely completion of readings and assignments, as well as class attendance, work on the farm, and participation and a self evaluation.

Keep all of your assignments together in a collection to hand in again at the end of the semester and for your own reference during the course and afterward, such as for use in your Div I or Div II portfolios.

Again, this syllabus is *very* preliminary and details will also depend on and change according to the weather, project results, and evolving student interests. More on all details in class/on line.

* **You are responsible** for knowing what was assigned, handed out, or announced in class/on-line, and reading or doing it...!

Hampshire "exam" week ends on Th, 13 Dec. and any/all remaining work is due on that week.

* **Turn in all assignments again by 14 Dec.**; I will keep them for you to pick up next semester (I may campus mail them to you but don't plan on it unless you need and request that).

* More on back.....



Preliminary (!) Course Outline (To Be Revised (!); See Web Page, Handouts...)...					
Date.....		Topic	Reading*	Written Assn.	
Sept	6	Th	Course Intro; farm (FC) walk	---	
	11	T	HC Farm/CSA/CISA	FHR* Part 1; NIC 32-3; readings on web pg (OL)**	
	13	Th	Pesticides and Pests	H*; FHR 130ff; (MAY CHANGE; SEE WEB PAGE)	
	18	T	HC Farm/Pests/Experiment etc...	NIC* 8-14, 76-105 + 22, 30-33, 68(TPB)	ShortAssn(SA) Due 1***
	20	Th	HC Farm/Pests etc...	H/OL*	
	25	T	Data: Stats and Sci Lit.	H/OL	
	27	Th	ADV DAY; No Class	---	
Oct	2	T	Data finish; Biofuels	H/OL	
	4	Th	CSA	H/OL	Exper. Report Due
	9	T	OCT BREAK; No Class	---	
	11	Th	GMOs	H/OL + FHR 148ff	
	16	T	Soils, Fertil, Erosion	FHR 121ff, 167ff, 181ff + H/OL	
	18	Th	Soils...	H/OL	SA2
	23	T	Animals and related	OD part I + H/OL	
	25	Th	Animals and related	OD part II + H/OL	
	30	T	Finish OD; start GMOs	H/OL	SA3
Nov	1	Th	Economics	H/OL	
	6	T	Econ/Global Issues	H/OL + FHR Part 4 I	Proj.Idea#****
		Th	Econ/Global Issues	H/OL + FHR Part 4 II	
	13	T	Projects and Other Issues	TBD***	
	15	Th	Projects and Other Issues	TBD	Proj.Abstract?
	20	T	Projects and Other Issues	TBD	FarmWorkDone?
	22	Th	THANKSGIV. BRK; No Class	---	
	27	T	Projects and Other Issues	TBD	
	29	Th	Projects and Other Issues	TBD	
Dec	4	T	Present Projects and Wrap Up	TBD	
	6	Th	Present Projects and Wrap Up	TBD	
Note:	7	F	ClassesEnd	---	
	13	Th	ExamsEnd*****	---	
[Again, above to be revised! See web page!!]					
* For abbreviations for the the readings, see the syllabus text; page numbers refer to a discrete block text, such as a section with a heading, a chapter, or a Part, that starts on that page...					
** See other side of this handout for how to get to the NS150 web page...					
*** Short Assignments are just that; short written work about the readings, discussions, etc...					
# More in Class...					
**** We will continue meeting, doing some readings and introducing new topics e.g. farm labor, biodiversity...), but will allow more time & energy for everyone to read/research more about areas of individual (or small group) interest...					
***** All remaining written work and revisions due by this date (15 Dec)...					
See syllabus text too, and more on all this in class...					

