

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2009  
 COURSE REVISED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COURSE TO BE REVIEWED: February 2013  
*(four years after UPAC approval)* *(month, year)*

**OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION**

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use.  
 Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department – see course syllabus available from instructor

AGRI 371	Trades and Technology - Agriculture Technology	3
COURSE NAME/NUMBER	FACULTY/DEPARTMENT	UCFV CREDITS
Sustainable Holistic Agriculture: Planning and Practices		
COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE		

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

The concepts of sustainability and holism are applied to agricultural planning and practices. The inter-related social, environmental and economic issues that comprise holistic enterprise planning are discussed and scientifically-sound, practical agri-production information for low-input sustainable systems is presented. Holistic operating practices for an agricultural business and The B.C. – Canada Environmental Farm Planning Program are explored.

PREREQUISITES: AGRI 204, or instructor's permission: Agri 311 and Agri 247 recommended  
 COREQUISITES: None  
 PRE or COREQUISITES:

**SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):**

- (a) Replaces: AGRI 271
- (b) Cross-listed with: \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Cannot take: \_\_\_\_\_ for further credit.

**SERVICE COURSE TO:** *(department/program)*

**TOTAL HOURS PER TERM:** 50  
**STRUCTURE OF HOURS:**  
 Lectures: 30 Hrs  
 Seminar: 10 Hrs  
 Laboratory: \_\_\_\_\_ Hrs  
 Field experience: 5 Hrs  
 Student directed learning: 5 Hrs  
 Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_ Hrs

**TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:**

Length of course: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hours per day: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER:**

Maximum enrolment: 25  
 Expected frequency of course offerings: Annually  
*(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)*

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)  Yes  No  
 WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)  Yes  No  
 TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:  Yes  xNo

Course designer(s): <u>Rose Morrison</u>	Date approved: <u>January 2009</u>
Department Head: <u>Rose Morrison</u>	Date of meeting: <u>January 30, 2009</u>
Supporting area consultation (UPACA1)	Date approved: <u>February 2009</u>
Curriculum Committee chair: <u>Rose Morrison</u>	Date approved: <u>February 2009</u>
Dean/Associate VP: <u>Harv McCullough</u>	Date of meeting: <u>February 27, 2009</u>
Undergraduate Program Advisory Committee (UPAC) approval	

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Describe and debate the tenets of agricultural sustainability and holistic resource management

Understand and differentiate among various popular sustainable agriculture systems, for example, Certified Organic farming, GAP (Good Agricultural practices) systems, LISA (Low-input sustainable Agriculture) and Permaculture.

Describe major ecosystem processes

Describe the agro-ecosystem in which they farm or work

Collect, compile and analyze pertinent social, biogeoclimatic and economic information that can be used in the construction of holistic, sustainable farm plans

Apply principles and practices of holism and sustainability to their agricultural endeavours, including farm production practices and farm stewardship

**METHODS:** *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

AGRI 371 is a participatory learning course: the holistic nature of the course material requires all participants to contribute to group learning by sharing their own expertise and experience.

Methods may include lecture, group discussion and case studies or role playing, online discussions and visits to participants' farms.

**METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):**

Examination(s)                       Portfolio assessment                       Interview(s)

Other (specify):

PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

**TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:**

*[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]*

Textbooks: Savory, A. and J. Butterfield, 1998. Holistic Management: A New Framework for Decision-making.

Gleissman, S.R. Agroecology: Ecological Processes in Sustainable Agriculture. Ann Arbor press.

B.C. - Canada Environmental Farm Plan Program Reference Manual, available online via [www.bcac.bc.ca](http://www.bcac.bc.ca)

Canadian Organic Growers, 2002. Organic Field Crop Handbook. 2nd Ed. Canadian Organic Growers

Canadian Organic Growers, 2000. Organic Livestock Handbook. Canadian Organic Growers

F. Magdoff and H. Van Es, 2000. Building Soils for Better Crops, SARE

Various Internet sites and downloadable text documents will also be used

References: Bowman, G. 1997. Steel in the Field. SARE

Canadian Farm Business Management Council, 2002. Introduction to Certified Organic Farming

Powers, L.E. and R. McSorley, 2000. Ecological Principles of Agriculture. Delmar

Web references include:

[www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca)

[listserv@sare.org](mailto:listserv@sare.org)

[www.attra.org](http://www.attra.org)

<http://infobasket.gov.bc.ca>

**SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:**

Calculator; appropriate, safe clothing for field trips; transportation for field trips.

**STUDENT EVALUATION:**

*[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]*

Assignments and online discussion questions - 35%

Mid-term test / Assignment - 30%

Final examination / Assignment - 35%

**COURSE CONTENT:**

*[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]*

Introduction: an initial look at Sustainability and Holism

The Setting:

Agriculture, its origins, resources, distribution and current production

Overview: Agriculture in Canada

Introduction to the vocabulary of ecology and agro-ecosystems

Plants in the environment

System interactions

Animals in the agro-ecosystem

Environment, Society and Economic systems that affect agriculture

(examples include government policies, trade agreements, urbanization and climate change)

Sustainability and Holism

What is sustainable and what is not (discussion, using some current examples)

Holistic planning and management

Practices of sustainable agriculture: some conventional and alternate systems

Environmental farm planning

Putting it together