UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE (page 1)

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)	x☐ Yes	☐ No
TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:	☐ Yes	☐ xNo

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

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

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
listserve@sare.org
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