



Syllabus for AG63 Introduction to Organic/Sustainable Agriculture

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2023

Course ID and Section #: AG63-V5565

Instructor: Robert Landry

Course units: 3.00

Instructor Contact Information

Office location: HU-121

Office hours: M/W 11:30am-1pm in person and online by appointment

Office phone: 707.476.4573

Email address: robert-landry@redwoods.edu (the best way to contact me)

Catalog Description

An introduction to the history, definitions, concepts, principles and practices of sustainable agriculture systems with an emphasis on organic techniques. Topics include goals of sustainable agriculture, soil sustainability, plant biology, biological diversity, cover crops, crop rotation, irrigation, integrated pest management, pruning, grafting, marketing, organic certification, sustainable livestock production, and tillage equipment.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify sustainable/organic agricultural production practices for a farm.
2. Discuss the three "E's" of sustainable agriculture and the importance of each.
3. Analyze a variety of technologies to gain information about the organic/sustainable agriculture industry and apply these technologies to analyze specific situations.

Educational Accessibility & Support

College of the Redwoods is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students who could benefit from additional educational support and services. You may qualify if you have a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual condition which causes you to struggle academically, including but not limited to:

- Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar disorder, and ADHD
- Common ailments such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, and diseases
- Temporary impairments such as a broken bone, recovery from significant surgery, or a pregnancy-related disability
- A learning disability (e.g., dyslexia, reading comprehension), intellectual disability, autism, or acquired brain injury
- Vision, hearing, or mobility challenges

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, tutoring, counseling and advising, alternate formats of materials (e.g., audio books, E-texts), assistive technology, on-campus transportation, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact [Disability Services and Programs for Students \(DSPS\)](#). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact DSPS for a consultation: dsps@redwoods.edu, 707-476-4280, Student Services Building, 1st floor.

Course delivery: This course is delivered and taught 100% online; there are no classroom meetings. This is an asynchronous course, which means you do not need to be present online during any set times. You must complete work by assigned due dates.

Student Commitment: Students should expect to spend roughly nine hours per week on the course. This will consist of watching video lectures, completing assigned readings, participating in discussion boards, and submitting assignments on time.

Computer Skills:

Online courses require computer skills. Before beginning, make sure you can:

- navigate the course Learning Management System (Canvas),
- receive and respond to your CR email,
- upload and download files using Canvas, and
- use a word processor (such as Microsoft Word or Pages).

Technology Requirements: You should have high-speed internet (such as broadband) service from cable, DSL, or satellite providers as there are videos that require this speed. You need to have reliable access to the internet for the duration of the course. Anticipate problems with your computer and internet access (including power outages) by not waiting until the last minute to submit assignments. It is your responsibility to meet the class deadlines.

Portable Devices vs. Computers: Although you can use late-model portable devices (such as Android or iOS phones & tablets) for some things, you should plan on doing most of your work (especially exams and assignments) from a reasonably late-model notebook or desktop computer (Mac or PC). Do NOT plan to participate in this class solely from a portable device. If you do decide to use your portable device for some of your class work, use the free Canvas app (called “Canvas by Instructure”) available in iTunes (for iOS) and the Google Play Store (for Android). Do not try to connect to Canvas using a web browser on a portable device. Your experience with Canvas will be a lot better using the app.

Canvas Support Information

If using Canvas, include navigation instructions, tech support information, what Canvas is used for, and your expectation for how regularly students should check Canvas for your class.

Log into Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com>

Password is your 8 digit birth date

For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160

Canvas Help for students: <https://webapps.redwoods.edu/tutorial/>

Canvas online orientation workshop: [Canvas Student Orientation Course \(instructure.com\)](https://redwoods.instructure.com/courses/12345/sections/12345/discussions/12345)

Proctored Exams: There will be no proctored exams.

Textbook: None required. Sustainable Agriculture, 2nd ed. By John Mason, and all other course materials, will be provided electronically through your Canvas course.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

Final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Assignment	Points
Question Sets: 10 points each	130
Biweekly Writing Submissions: 10 points each	60
Biweekly Discussion Posts: 5 points each	35
Case Study Report:	40
Final Farm Practices Paper:	35
Total:	300

Confirm your presence in the online classroom

Log in to our class in Canvas and post to the week one discussion board no later than 11:59pm on Friday of the first week to confirm your presence in the online classroom. Doing so will confirm your enrollment in the course and will ensure you aren't dropped as a "no show." Please email me with if you have an issue with this.

Weekly Class Format

Refer to the Course Schedule below and/or weekly modules for topics and assignments each week. The regular layout is as follows:

Monday: Weekly lecture, readings, question sets and biweekly discussion board or writing assignment is posted at 8am.

Friday: First discussion board post due at 11:59pm (for weeks where discussions are assigned).

Monday (of following week): Two response discussion board posts due by 5pm. All assignments due by 5pm unless noted otherwise.

Biweekly Writing Submissions

The biweekly writing assignments will alternate with biweekly discussion board posts detailed above. For weeks when writing submissions are assigned, that Monday a new writing prompt will be available. I will ask you to read or watch the content I provide as background context for responding to the writing prompt. Each writing submission is worth 10 points, and details for each will be provided at the time each are assigned.

Biweekly Discussion Board Posts

The biweekly discussion board posts will alternate with biweekly writing assignments. For weeks when discussion boards are assigned, that Monday a new discussion board will be available to post on. I will ask you to read or watch the content I provide for the discussion board. You will then answer the discussion board questions. This is your initial post. **Initial discussion posts must be done by Friday of the given week at 11:59pm.** You will then need to respond to two different peers' posts on the discussion board. These **response posts must be done by Monday at 5pm.** Your initial post will be graded by your thoughtfulness, detail, and effort. Your response posts will too be graded by effort and detail.

Rubric for Discussion Boards

-2 points for initial post. Initial post must be done by the deadline and will also be graded on the following: detailed, insight, contribution, originality, thoughtfulness.

-1.5 points for each responding post. Responding posts must show effort, detail, and engage with your peer. Posts like, "Nice work!" Or "That makes a lot of sense, thanks for sharing!" will not receive credit.

Netiquette: While we are not communicating face-to-face, please remember to be respectful of everyone in this course. This includes opinions and thoughts in discussion boards. We should all support each other in the course to achieve our goals and be successful. Please be respectful and let's not make this an issue.

Weekly Question Sets

For most weeks, a question set will be assigned that will have questions based on the weekly lecture and/or readings. This quiz is meant to demonstrate that you have engaged in and understand the material. **Question sets will be due by 5pm on Monday of the week they are assigned.**

Farm Case Study Report

Towards the middle of the semester, you will complete a case study on a farm that you would like to learn more about. While you are encouraged to find a farm near you that you can visit and interview the farmer(s) in person, you can also complete this assignment virtually. More details will be provided later when the case study report is assigned.

Final Farm Practices Paper

The final for the course will be administered via Canvas during finals week. The final will consist of a Farm Practices Paper that is meant to gauge your understanding of the materials covered in a comprehensive way. For this final assignment, you will create an ideal farm based off the practices you have learned about and that you would like to use on your farm. You will provide detail and reasoning as to why your farm will use each practice. More information will be provided when the final is assigned.

Late Work

All coursework is due by the published due dates in Canvas. Work submitted after the due date will not be accepted without reasonable justification and instructor's prior consent. In consideration of this policy, there will be one assignment dropped from each of the following categories: Discussion Posts, Question Sets, and Writing Submissions.

AG63 Introduction to Organic/Sustainable Agriculture Course Schedule

**NOTE THIS IS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND IT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Module/Week	Topics	Assignments Due
Week 1: 8/21 – 27	Course Introduction; What is Sustainable Agriculture?	Discussion #1; Question Set #1
Week 2: 8/28 - 9/3	History of Organic and Sustainable Agriculture	Writing Submission #1; Question Set #2
Week 3: 9/4 - 10	Sustainability Concepts	Discussion #2; Question Set #3
Week 4: 9/11 – 17	Soil Health and Fertility	Writing Submission #2; Question Set #4
Week 5: 9/18 – 24	Water Management	Discussion #3; Question Set #5
Week 6: 9/25 – 10/1	Pest and Disease Management through IPM	Writing Submission #3; Question Set #6 <i>Case Study Report Assigned</i>
Week 7: 10/2 – 8	Weed Control and Cultivation	Discussion #4; Question Set #7
Week 8: 10/9 – 15	Managing the Farm Sustainably	Writing Submission #4; Question Set #8
Week 9: 10/16 – 22	Managing Plants part I: Different Cropping Systems	Discussion #5; Question Set #9; <i>Student submits Case Study location to Instructor for approval</i>
Week 10: 10/23 – 29	Managing Plants part 2: Agroecological Principles	Writing Submission #5; Question Set #10
Week 11: 10/30 - 11/5	Sustainable Livestock Management	Discussion #6; Question Set #11
Week 12: 11/6 - 12	Products and Equipment Used in Sustainable Agriculture	Question Set #12
Week 13: 11/13 – 19	Organic Certification	Discussion #7; Case Study Report
Week 14: 11/27 – 12/3	Environmental Stewardship; Agriculture Policy Making	Writing Submission #6; Question Set #13
Week 15: 12/4 – 10	Farm Practices Assignment	Discussion #8
Week 16: 12/11 – 15	Finals	Final Farm Practices Paper

Student Support

Good information and clear communication about your needs will help you be successful. Please let your instructor know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. College of the Redwoods wants every student to be successful.

Admissions deadlines & enrollment policies

Fall 2023 Dates

- August 18th: Last day to register for classes (day before the first class meeting)
- August 19th: Classes begin
- August 25th: Last day to add a class
- September 1st: Last day to drop without a “W” and receive a refund
- September 4th: Labor Day Holiday (All Campuses Closed)
- September 5th: Census Date (20% of class)
- October 26th: Last day to petition to graduate
- October 27th: Last day for student initiated withdrawal (62.5% of class)
- October 27th: Last day for faculty initiated withdrawal (62.5% of class)
- November 11th: Veterans Day (All Campuses Closed)
- November 20th-25th: Thanksgiving break (no classes)
- November 22nd-24th: No Classes, all campuses closed
- December 9th-15th: Final Examinations
- December 15th: Last day to file for P/NP option
- December 15th: Semester Ends
- December 22nd: Grades due
- January 5th: Grades available

Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student’s status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Disruptive behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor’s directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages instructors and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

Setting Your Preferred Name in Canvas

Students have the ability to have an alternate first name and pronouns to appear in Canvas. Contact [Admissions & Records](#) to request a change to your preferred first name and pronoun. Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas. This does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form](#).

Canvas Information

Canvas Information

If using Canvas, include navigation instructions, tech support information, what Canvas is used for, and your expectation for how regularly students should check Canvas for your class.

Log into Canvas at [My CR Portal](#)

For help logging in to Canvas, visit [My CR Portal](#).

For help with Canvas once you're logged in, click on the Help icon on the left menu. For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160

Canvas online orientation workshop: [Canvas Student Orientation Course \(instructure.com\)](#)

Community College Student Health and Wellness

Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges [Health & Wellness website](#).

[Wellness Central](#) is a free online health and wellness resource that is available 24/7 in your space at your pace.

Students seeking to request a counseling appointment for academic advising or general counseling can email counseling@redwoods.edu.

Emergency procedures / Everbridge

College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system called Everbridge. In the event of an emergency on campus you will receive an alert through your personal email and/or phones.

Registration is not necessary in order to receive emergency alerts. Check to make sure your contact information is up-to-date by logging into WebAdvisor <https://webadvisor.redwoods.edu> and selecting 'Students' then 'Academic Profile' then 'Current Information Update.'

Please contact Public Safety at 707-476-4112 or security@redwoods.edu if you have any questions. For more information see the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](#).

In an emergency that requires an evacuation of the building anywhere in the District:

- Be aware of all marked exits from your area and building
- Once outside, move to the nearest evacuation point outside your building
- Keep streets and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel

Do not leave campus unless it has been deemed safe by the campus authorities.

Eureka Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the [campus emergency map](#) for evacuation sites, including the closest site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room). For more information on Public Safety go to the [CR Police Department- Public Safety](#). It is the responsibility of College of the Redwoods to protect life and property from the effects of emergencies within its own jurisdiction.

In the event of an emergency:

1. Evaluate the impact the emergency has on your activity/operation and take appropriate action.
2. Dial 911, to notify local agency support such as law enforcement or fire services.
3. Notify Public Safety 707-476-4111 and inform them of the situation, with as much relevant information as possible.
4. Public Safety shall relay threat information, warnings, and alerts through the Everbridge emergency alert system, Public address system, and when possible, updates on the college website, to ensure the school community is notified.
5. Follow established procedures for the specific emergency as outlined in the College of the Redwoods Emergency Procedure Booklet, (evacuation to a safe zone, shelter in place, lockdown, assist others if possible, cooperate with First Responders, etc.).
6. If safe to do so, notify key administrators, departments, and personnel.
7. Do not leave campus unless it is necessary to preserve life and/or has been deemed safe by the person in command.

Student Support Services

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

- [CR-Online](#) (Comprehensive information for online students)
- [Library Articles & Databases](#)
- [Canvas help and tutorials](#)
- [Online Student Handbook](#)
- [Online Tutoring Resources](#)

[Counseling](#) offers assistance to students in need of professional counseling services such as crisis counseling.

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- [Multicultural & Diversity Center](#)
- [Academic Support Center](#) – offers tutoring and test proctoring for CR students.
- [Student Tech Help](#) – provides students with assistance around a variety of tech problems.

Special programs are also available for eligible students include:

- [Extended Opportunity Programs & Services \(EOPS\)](#) provides services to eligible income disadvantaged students including: textbook award, career academic and personal counseling, school supplies, transportation assistance, tutoring, laptop, calculator and textbook loans, priority registration, graduation cap and gown, workshops, and more!
- The TRiO Student Success Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including trips to 4-year universities, career assessments, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program in [Eureka](#) or in [Del Norte](#)
- The [Veteran's Resource Center](#) supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.
- [CalWORKS](#) – assists student parents with children under the age of 18, who are receiving cash assistance (TANF), to become self-sufficient.
- Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR KT Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821.