



## Syllabus for AG 60: Organic Certification

### Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2025

Course ID & Section #: AG-60-V9049

Instructor's name: Breauna DeMatto

Day/Time of required meetings: N/A (asynchronous online class content)

Location: Online

Course units: 1.0

### Instructor Contact Information

Office location: Online

Office hours: By appointment

Email address: [breauna-dematto@redwoods.edu](mailto:breauna-dematto@redwoods.edu) or message via Canvas

### Required Materials

No textbook - readings will be provided on Canvas.

### Catalog Description

A course studying the origins, application, regulation and technology of organic crop and livestock production. Theoretical and practical issues surrounding organic production from a cross-disciplinary perspective. Topics include the history of the organic movement, current regulation and certification, and field management practices and technologies.

### Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. **Discuss historical milestones in the development of organic agriculture.**
2. **Define organic agriculture and related terms.**
3. **Distinguish between organic registration and organic certification.**

### Course Calendar

See the attached Course Outline at the end of this document.

### Evaluation & Grading Policy

Evaluation for this course is based on your performance of the following assignments (more details about each assignment are posted on Canvas):

Discussion Board Postings (6 postings at 10 points each) = 60 points

Quizzes (5 quizzes at 10 points each) = 50 points

Organic System Plan Parts 1-4 (25 points each) = 100 points

Final Exam = 40 points

**Total Points = 250 points**

Grades will be posted to Canvas in a timely manner after an assignment is completed. Please be sure to check your grades throughout the semester so that you can alert me of any discrepancies that you notice.

Semester grades will be based on the percentage of the total possible points earned over the semester. Letter grades will be broken down as follows:

93-100% = A  
90-92% = A-  
87-89% = B+  
83-86% = B  
80-82% = B-  
77-79% = C+  
70-76% = C  
60-69% = D  
50-59% = F

## Class Policies

### Class Overview

For a one-unit course, you can expect to spend about one hour per week completing “in-class” activities such as viewing lecture materials and videos, and about two hours per week completing “out-of-class” activities such as reading assigned materials, working on assignments, quizzes, and discussion board postings. Modules will open on Monday of each week and will conclude the following Sunday. *All assignments for the week are due by the end of Sunday at 11:59pm.*

For additional information about this course, please see the *Course Outline* at the end of this document.

### Open Door Policy

I have an “open door policy,” meaning that you can approach me with any questions or concerns at any time. I am here to help you learn and to support you on your educational journey. I am available by email, phone, and Zoom. If you would like to talk by phone or Zoom, please send me an email ahead of time so that we can arrange a meeting time.

### Late Policy

Please keep yourself apprised of the due dates for your assignments. Details about assignments such as due dates can be found on the Course Outline and in Canvas. Be sure to allot enough time to complete each assignment, while keeping in mind the fact that computers tend to malfunction, people tend to get sick, and life tends to get messy, so please try and plan ahead for the unexpected/don't wait until the last minute. Points will be deducted for late submissions of assignments (please refer to the corresponding rubric for an assignment). *The last day to submit any late work will be the last day of the semester (Friday, December 19, 2025).*

### Excessive Absences

Excessive absences will lead to you being dropped from the course. **Up until the end of the tenth week of the semester (10/31/25), absence from class for four total class days (4 weeks) will lead to your being dropped from the course.** This is to address the prevalence of Financial Aid fraud. *Note that 10/31/25 is the last day to drop and receive a W.* If you realize throughout the course that you no longer wish to take this class, please drop yourself before this date so that you can receive a W. If you stop attending class after this date, I will need to assign you a grade at the end of the semester.

**Please be aware as well that if you are not consistently attending class prior to the census date (9/08/25), this will lead to you being dropped from the course.**

## Prerequisites/corequisites/ recommended preparation

None

## 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, or bipolar disorder
- 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
- Neurodevelopmental disorders such as a learning disability, intellectual disability, autism, acquired brain injury, or ADHD
- Vision, hearing, or mobility conditions

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, academic assistance and tutoring through the [LIGHT Center](#), counseling and advising, alternate formats of course materials (e.g., audio books, braille, E-texts), assistive technology, learning disability assessments, approval for personal attendants, interpreters, priority registration, on-campus transportation, adaptive physical education and living skills courses, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact [Student Accessibility Support Services \(SASS\)](#). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact Student Accessibility Support Services (SASS) for a consultation: [sass@redwoods.edu](mailto:sass@redwoods.edu).

### SASS office locations and phone numbers

Eureka campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280
- Location: Learning Resource Center (Library)

Del Norte campus

- Phone: 707-465-2353
- Location: Main building, near the Library

Klamath-Trinity campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280

*Please see CR's Student Services and Support Handbook on Canvas for information about additional services.*

## Course Outline - Fall 2025

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignment*
1	8/25-8/31	An Overview of Organic Agriculture	Discussion Board #1
2	9/1-9/7	Historical Milestones in Organic Ag	Quiz #1
3	9/8-9/14	Organic vs. Conventional Agriculture	Discussion Board #2
4	9/15-9/21	Basics of Organic Certification	Quiz #2
5	9/22-9/28	Steps to Organic Certification	Discussion Board #3
6	9/29-10/5	Organic Crop Production Part 1	Quiz #3
7	10/6-10/12	Organic Crop Production Part 2	Discussion Board #4
8	10/13-10/19	Organic Livestock Production Part 1	Quiz #4
9	10/20-10/26	Organic Livestock Production Part 2	Discussion Board #5
10	10/27-11/2	Intro to the Organic System Plan (OSP)	Quiz #5
11	11/3-11/9	Organic System Plan Part 1	OSP Part 1 Forms
12	11/10-11/16	Organic System Plan Part 2	OSP Part 2 Forms
13	11/17-11/23	Organic System Plan Part 3	OSP Part 3 Forms
	11/24-11/28	<i>Fall Break: No Classwork</i>	
14	12/1-12/7	Organic System Plan Part 4	OSP Part 4 Forms
15	12/8-12/14	Recordkeeping and Maintaining Organic Certification	Discussion Board #6
16	12/15-12/19	Finals Week	Final Exam <b>Due Friday, 12/19 by 11:59pm</b>

*\*All assignments are due Sunday by 11:59pm unless otherwise noted.*