CR COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS

Syllabus for AG33 Agriculture, Environment, and Society

Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2025
Course ID and Section #: AG33-V7622
Instructor: Robert Landry
Course units: 3.00

Instructor Contact Information

Office location: Online
Office hours: Online by appointment
Email address: robert-landry@redwoods.edu (the best way to contact me)

Catalog Description

A course covering the sociology of agriculture presented through an examination of relationships between societies and their environments, economics, and agriculture. Emphasis will be on the analysis of agriculture's use of technology and the corresponding impact on the environment, economy and society.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Assess the significance of biotechnology in providing a full or partial solution in addressing food supply and environmental challenges and appraise the risks in utilizing biotechnology for these purposes.

2. Analyze and identify the global impacts of agriculture industrialization, corporatization and globalization of food production.

3. Analyze current socio-political and ethical issues in agriculture.

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 (such as 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 (such as audio books or 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 Student Accessibility Support Services (SASS). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact SASS for a consultation: sass@redwoods.edu.

SASS office locations and phone numbers

- Phone: 707-476-4280
- Location: Student Services Building, first 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, orsatellite 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)

Proctored Exams: There will be no proctored exams.

Textbook: None required. All 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	120
Writing Submissions: 25 points each	75
Discussion Posts: 10 points each	55
Total:	**250**

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 Sunday (1/26) 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, videos, question sets and discussion board or writing assignments are posted at 8am.

Saturday: 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 Mondays unless noted otherwise**.

Writing Submissions

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 25 points, and details for each will be provided at the time each are assigned.

Discussion Board Posts

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 Saturday 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 (see link in electronic syllabus in Canvas)

Question Sets

For most weeks, a question set will be assigned that will have questions based on the weekly lecture readings and/or lecture video/documentaries. 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.**

Late Work

All coursework is due by the published due dates in Canvas. Work submitted after the due date will only be accepted with reasonable justification and instructor's prior consent.

AG33 Agriculture, Environment, and Society Course Schedule

Module/Week	Topics	Assignments Due
Week 1: 1/20 – 1/26	Course Introduction; Global Food Security Overview	Student Introduction Discussion
Week 2: 1/27 - 2/2	On the Beginnings of Agriculture	Question Set #1
Week 3: 2/3 - 2/9	Guns, Germs, and Steel Ch. 4-5	Discussion #1; Question Set #2
Week 4: 2/10 - 2/16	Guns, Germs, and Steel Ch. 6-7	Question Set #3
Week 5: 2/17 - 2/23	Guns, Germs, and Steel Ch. 8-9	Discussion #2; Question Set #4
Week 6: 2/24 - 3/2	Guns, Germs, and Steel Ch. 10 and Documentary	Writing Submission #1
Week 7: 3/3 - 3/9	Environmental Footprint of Food Production (Guest Video Lecture)	Question Set #5
Week 8: 3/10 - 3/16	Human Population and the Food Supply in the 21st Century (Chrispeels Ch. 1)	Question Set #6
Week 9: 3/24 - 3/30	Food Waste in the 21st Century (Documentary)	Discussion #3; Question Set #7
Week 10: 3/31 - 4/6	A Changing Global Food System (Chrispeels Ch. 2)	Question Set #8
Week 11: 4/7 - 4/13	Challenges and Solutions for Subsistence Farmers (Chrispeels Ch. 19)	Discussion #4
Week 12: 4/14 - 4/20	Sustainable Food Production in the 21st Century (Chrispeels Ch. 22)	Question Set #9
Week 13: 4/21 - 4/27	Students' Choice: Current Topics	Writing Submission #2
Week 14: 4/28 - 5/4	Eating Our Way to Extinction (Documentary)	Discussion #5
Week 15: 5/5 - 5/11	Final Writing Submission	Writing Submission #3

Student Support Services

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.

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

[CR Online Learning Support](#)

Tech support, laptop loans, guides to using Canvas, installing Office 365 for free, and more.

[Library Articles & Databases](#)

Find the best library databases for your research.

[Online Tutoring Resources](#)

Participate in tutoring over Zoom.

To learn more about the resources available to you, click on a title bar below, or click the down arrow to expand them all.

Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR Klamath-Trinity Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821.

Community College Student Health and Wellness

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

If you are in distress or are with someone at risk right now, call or text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
741-741

Timely Care

When you're not feeling well physically or distressed mentally, Timely Care can offer the help you're looking for in just a few quick taps. Students can schedule an appointment anytime via phone, video, and chat. [Log in or set up an account with Timely Care](#).

Mental Health Counseling

Students should text, email, or fax Shawna Bell directly for scheduling and/or services.

- Text: 707-496-2856
- Email: shawnabmft@gmail.com
- Fax and voicemail: 707-237-2318

Wellness Central

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 [Wellness Central](#).

Counseling

[Counseling and Advising](#) can assist students in need of academic advising and professional counseling services. Call, email or stop by one of our offices to make an appointment!

Counseling and Advising office locations and contact info

Eureka campus
- Phone: 707-476-4150
- Location: Student Services Building, first floor
- Email: counseling@redwood.edu
- Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am to 4pm. Summer hours may vary

Basic Needs Center

[The Basic Needs Center](#) provides for the health and safety of students by providing access to healthy food, financial resources, and referrals to safe and secure housing. [Submit a request for services and information](#).

Basic Needs Center contact info
- Phone: 707-476-4153
- Email: the-grove@redwoods.edu

Learning Resource Center

The Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students:

Library Services

[Library Services](#) promotes information literacy and provides organized information resources.

Multicultural and Equity Center (MCE)

The [Multicultural and Equity Center](#) is a dynamic and inclusive place that supports all students in their academic and personal journeys at the college. We do this by creating community, home away from home, and a safe place for cultural expression, cross-cultural learning, access to college and dignity resources, and social justice work opportunities. The MEC is committed to retention and student success by offering activities related to leadership development, student connectedness and student equity. We are a student-centered program that fosters respect for all people.

Academic Support Center

The [Academic Support Center](#) offers tutoring and test proctoring for CR students.

Student Tech Help

[Student Tech Help](#) provides students with assistance around a variety of tech problems.

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)

[Extended Opportunity Programs and Services](#) (EOPS) provides services to eligible income disadvantaged students including: textbook awards, grants, career academic and personal counseling, transportation assistance, tutoring, laptop, calculator and textbook loans, priority registration, graduation cap and gown, workshops, and more!

TRiO Student Success Program

The TRiO Student Support Services Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including academic advising, career assessments, assistance with transfer, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program with the [Eureka TRiO office](#) or the [Del Norte TRiO office](#).

Veterans Resource Center

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

California Work Opportunity & Responsibility to Kids ([CalWORKs](#)) provides supportive services to student parents with children under the age of 18, who are receiving cash assistance (TANF benefits), to become self-sufficient. Services include: transportation assistance, basic student supplies, tutoring, priority registration, laptop and calculator loans, career, academic, and personal counseling, and more!

Spring 2025 Dates

Date	To Remember
January 17 Last day to register for classes (day before the first class meeting)	
January 18 Classes begin	
January 20 Martin Luther King's Birthday (All Campuses Closed)	
January 24 Last Day to add a class	
January 31 Last Day to Drop & Receive a Refund	

Date	To Remember
February 2 Last Day to Drop w/out a "W"	
February 3 Census Date (20% of class)	
February 14 Lincoln's Birthday (All Campuses Closed)	
February 17 President's Day (All Campuses Closed)	
March 6 Last Day to Petition to Graduate & Petition for Certificate	
March 17 - 22 Spring Break (No Classes)	
March 28 Last Day for Student/Faculty Withdrawal	
March 31 Cesar Chavez Day (All Campuses Closed)	
May 10 - 16 Final Examinations	
May 16 Last Day to File P/NP Option	
May 16 Semester Ends	
May 23 Grades Due	

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 2023-2024 College Catalog and CR Board and Administrative Policies.

AI Use Class Policy

Recent advancements in generative artificial intelligence (AI) have made large language models such as ChatGPT and Google's Bard widely available. However, overuse of these tools in this class can undermine your learning and curtail the development of your critical and creative thinking skills. In addition, AI outputs are often unreliable and frequently subject to bias. For these reasons, the policy of this class is that AI cannot be used at any point in the completion of class assignments, including discussion posts. Any or all of your assignment submissions and discussion posts may be screened by AI detection software, but the real penalty for AI misuse is that you will miss out on an opportunity to learn.

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. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the 2023-2024 College Catalog and CR Board and Administrative Policies.

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.

Canvas Information

- Log into Canvas at My CR Portal
- For help logging in to Canvas and general tech help, visit Student Technical Support
- Once you're logged in to Canvas, you click on the Help icon on the left menu
- Canvas online orientation workshop: Canvas Student Orientation Course

Setting Your Preferred Name and Pronouns in Canvas

Students have the ability to display personal pronouns and an alternate first name in Canvas. Students may change their pronouns on their own in Canvas (Account :: Settings :: Edit Settings). To request a change to your preferred list name, contact Admissions & Records. 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 (pdf).

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 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 visit Redwoods Public Safety.

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.

To learn more about campus-specific Emergency Procedures, click on a title bar below, or click the down arrow to expand them all.