

Vegetable Crops Production – Syllabus and Lecture Schedule

Instructor:

Dr. Carl Motsenbocker
School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences
Louisiana State University
239 Julian Miller Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Phone: (225) 578-6002
E-mail: cmots@lsu.edu

Office Hours:

Dr. Motsenbocker's office hours are available by appointment and should be scheduled via telephone or email.

Students taking the course through the ACCEPtS program may call, e-mail, or post the questions in the course Questions and Comments forums in Moodle.

Credits:

You will receive 3 semester credits for this course.

Objectives and Learning Goals:

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the principles and practices of sustainable vegetable crops production and physiology. Students will learn about soil fertility management, stand establishment (seed, transplants), environmental modification (mulches, row covers, high tunnels, greenhouses), pest management, greenhouse production, and the production practices and physiological aspects of specific vegetable crops.

Course Objectives:

With successful completion of this course, the student will obtain the following learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the cultural and management considerations of successful sustainable vegetable crops production.
2. Be familiar with the physiological aspects of vegetable crops growth and development.
3. Be familiar with vegetable crops environmental modification and plasticulture systems.
4. Be familiar with successful vegetable crops harvest and marketing.
5. Be familiar with the commercial vegetable industry.

Course Progress and Participation:

It is especially important that students set aside a regular time to study the course content and participate in the assignment discussions. Students who do so learn more and perform better on exams than students who fail to regularly read and work with the course content. Be sure to pay attention to assignment deadlines and exam dates. These will help to keep you moving through the course material and up to date.

Failure to complete assignments on time will result in a 0% grade for those activities. Unless an advisor's (in the case of a conflicting university-sponsored activity) or physician's statement (in the case of illness) is provided regarding such failures. NO late work will be accepted.

Recommended Text:

There are no required texts for this course. The instructor will ask each university to have the recommended texts below on reserve for the class at your campus library.

- Producing Vegetable Crops. 2002. J.M. Swiader and G.W. Ware. Interstate Publishers, Danville, IL.
- World Vegetables: Principles, Production, and Native Values. 1997. V.E. Rubatzky and M. Yamaguchi.

Required Reading:

In addition, Dr. Motsenbocker will provide additional reading assignments in Moodle during the semester. All reading assignments are considered testable material.

Other Requirements:

It should be understood that this class is taught online and that lectures, discussion assignments, and (proctored) exams will be administered via the internet. Students are responsible for all information posted on Moodle and should have access to the internet throughout the semester. While administrative and technical support for the class Moodle site is available during regular business hours, individual assistance with issues related to your personal computer or software will not be readily provided. You must have a basic level of computer/web-based competency in order to function successfully in the course. You should be able to:

- send and receive email – and send/receive attachments
- upload and download documents
- use browser to access web sites and streamed video
- upload assignment files in Moodle
- use basic features of word processing software
- comment and respond to others in a Moodle forum
- Use text editors and fields provided within Moodle to type responses.

Distance Delivery:

Moodle will be used as the course management system for this course. Students must login with their username and password in order to access LSU CE Moodle system.

To access Moodle, go to <http://moodle2.outreach.lsu.edu>

For best functionality, we recommend using Firefox or Chrome as your browser when using Moodle. Browser download information can be found on the Moodle login page.

All course materials necessary for this class will be posted on Moodle. All assignments, quizzes, and exams will also be administered through Moodle unless otherwise specified.

Working Through the Course:

The course material is broken up into topic modules within Moodle. Modules covered will follow a weekly schedule, with some modules covering two weeks of material. New modules cannot be accessed until a specific date (See Lecture Schedule). Usually, new modules will be available each Sunday at 11:59 pm, unless noted otherwise. To open the module, click on the arrow next to the topic title.

Each topic module will include the learning objectives, video lectures and corresponding notes, the required quizzes and homework assignment, and any other resources related to that module.

Each topic module will also include a designated “Questions and Comments” forum for the specific content covered in that module. Use this forum to post questions to your professor or other students about what is being discussed that week. Do not be afraid to post questions in these forums! While you may not get an immediate response, forums are monitored daily and you can expect to receive a response in a timely manner. Please be aware that these forums are for the entire class’s benefit and that any post will be viewable by all students. If you have a personal question about grades, please send a direct email to your professor.

Quizzes:

Each module will have a 10 point quiz on the content covered in that topic module. Quizzes are administered online through Moodle and must be taken during the time the quiz is open. Quizzes will usually be available for the duration of the module but you must take the quiz before the posted due date. Pay attention to due dates! You should have ample time to take each quiz so missed quizzes will not be allowed to be made up without an advisor’s or physician’s statement! You will have one attempt at the quiz and you will have 60 minutes to complete the quiz once you start the attempt. Quizzes are designed so that students must keep up with lecture topics from the beginning of each week, so even though you may use notes during the quiz you should try to study the lectures and readings before you start your attempt.

Note: Do NOT attempt quizzes from mobile phones or tablets! Moodle quiz functionality is not consistent on mobile devices. You will not be allowed to make up quizzes due to technical difficulties from mobile devices.

Assignments:

Students are required to complete module homework assignments that will count as 20% of the final course grade. Assignments may include Discussion Forums, or other written assignments and activities. Each assignment will be worth 100 points.

In the case of forum assignments, students **MUST** participate in online discussions for participation points as part of the assignment grade. **Students are required to post a response to the assignment question AND review and discuss other classmates' responses as well.** You will be graded for your initial response and your participation with your classmates' responses. **DO NOT** leave initial responses in the forums to the last minute! You should allow adequate time for other students to read and discuss your response. Responses made within 24 hours of the close of the discussion forum will not receive full credit. You do not have to comment on every post made in the forum but you should comment on what interests you. Responses and comments to postings should be created in the text field provided and not as an attachment unless the instructions specifically state uploading a file. Students will be assessed on initial response content, timeliness and frequency of comments to other students' posts - one post per forum is not a discussion! (Discussion Forums are a place for your voice to be heard and to interact with your classmates. Share your opinions, thoughts, and ideas on the specific topic, however you must use etiquette and respect others. Please use mature language and be considerate of others.)

Pay close attention to the assignment instructions and due dates. Assignment instructions will include a more detailed breakdown of grading criteria.

Grower/Farmer's Market Profile:

You will be selected to conduct either a grower or farmers market profile in your area. A list will be provided to you and you will be assigned a particular grower/farmers market operation. You are required to collect and then provide information to the class during Midterms week and at the end of the semester on the production, postharvest and marketing practices of a local farm operation or the history and information on a farmers market.

You will be required to post a brief overview to the class (no more than 3 to 5 paragraphs) during midterm week on the progress of your class project.

The final project report will consist of 3 parts: a written report (no more than 5 pages), a presentation (10 to 15 slides) that will be uploaded in a forum for the class to review. You will also include a short (one paragraph) grower/farmers market profile overview in your forum post.

The overall project goal is to provide an example of successful grower/farmer's market operations and learn how these relate to the local and regional food system. It is expected that you will make arrangements to visit the farm/farm market, interview the farm owner or operators/market manager, take pictures of the farm/farmers market, etc. In your report, please identify the source of your information and contact info. Additional instructions and Grower/Farmers Market lists will be available in Moodle in the "Project: Grower/Farmer's

Market Profile” module.

Exams:

There will be a midterm and final exam. Questions on the exam will be multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer/essay. Exams will be taken during the weeks specified in the lecture schedule; however, the specific dates will be determined at the beginning of the semester. You will be notified of the specific dates. **Exams will be proctored on site at the student’s home institution. Off campus students are responsible for setting up an approved proctor location and time.** Off campus students must submit proctor information to both Dr. Motsenbocker and your university coordinator within the first two weeks of class.

Students will be sent an e-mail with the exam room location and specific details. Exams will be taken online through Moodle during specific time slots in a monitored computer lab. Failure to complete exams during this time will result in 0 points unless previously discussed with the instructor.

Course Grading:

Quizzes	10%
Module Assignments*	20%
Grower/Farmer’s Market Profile	10%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	35%
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TOTAL	100%

*Graduate students will have additional assignments that will count towards the 20% Module Assignment grade.

Letter Grade Assignment:

90%	–	100%	=	A
80%	–	89%	=	B
70%	–	79%	=	C
60%	–	69%	=	D
0%	–	59%	=	F

Code of Student Conduct:

It is the responsibility of all students to familiarize themselves with the Code of Student Conduct and other University rules and regulations governing student conduct and activities.

Academic dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty can result in probation, suspension, or expulsion from the course. For more information, refer to your handbook of responsibility in student university relationship or refer to the Code of Conduct that can be found in the Office of the Dean of Students website within the LSU home page.

Disabilities Statement:

If you have special needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please notify your instructor immediately for proper accommodations.

Helpful Tips:

- **TIME MANAGEMENT!!!!**
 - DO NOT view lectures at the end of the week. You will never have enough time to understand the material before exams. Allow time EVERYDAY to go over lecture material, assigned textbook readings, supplemental readings and other available resources on Moodle. You will spend at least 3 hours every week listening to lecture material.
- Print out corresponding PowerPoint's for each lecture before watching the video. Follow along as you listen and TAKE NOTES!
- Students should consider getting together as groups and watch lectures together. The amount of information covered in this class can sometimes be overwhelming. Watching lectures and taking notes together can make it easier to keep yourself and other classmates on track.
- CHECK MOODLE EVERYDAY! This is an interactive class with new information being posted often.
- Take advantage of the Question and Comment area in each Module Topic. If you are confused about something in the class, use the corresponding forum to post it! Other students may have the same questions and this forum allows classmates to talk to each other.

(See Lecture, Assignment, & Exam Schedule on next page)

Tentative Lecture, Assignment, & Exam Schedule

Module	Date	Topic	Source*
1	August 26 – September 7	<i>Introduction to Vegetable Industry</i>	PVC 1 & 2, WV 1-5
2	September 8 – 15	<i>Vegetable Growing Principles</i>	WV 6 & 7
3	September 16 – 29	<i>Crop Establishment & Management</i>	PVC 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
4	September 30 – October 6	<i>Plasticulture & Modification of the Plant Environment</i>	Articles
5	October 7 – 13	<i>Sustainable Agriculture</i>	Articles
6	October 14 – 20	<i>Greenhouse Vegetables</i>	PVC 29
EXAM	October 14 – 19	Mid-Term Exam (covers Modules 1 – 5) The specific date/time of exam TBD - Grower/Farmer's Market Profile overview due	
7	October 21 – 27	<i>Root & Tuberous Crops: Sweet Potato & Irish Potato</i>	PVC 23 & 26
8	October 28 – November 3	<i>Solanaceous Crops</i>	PVC 22 & 27
9	November 4 – 10	<i>Sweet corn & growing degree days; Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering</i>	PVC 11 & 25
10	November 11 – 17	<i>Root Crops; Onions and Allium species</i>	PVC 15 & 20
11	November 18 – 24	<i>Cole Crops; Cucumber and Cucurbit Vegetables</i>	PVC 14, 17, 19
12	November 25 – December 1	<i>Post Harvest Handling – GAPS</i>	PVC 10, Articles
13	December 2 – 8	<i>Direct Marketing – Farmers Markets; Local / Community Food Programs</i> - Final Report and Presentation of Grower/Farmer's Market Profile due	Articles
EXAM	December 9 – 13	Final Exam The specific date/time of exam TBD	

(Dates may be subject to change upon notification from professor)

*PVC refers to material from the Producing Vegetable Crops textbook.

*WC refers to material from the World Vegetables textbook.