

Soils 101/AFS 105 Syllabus (Spring 2009)

Course: Soils 101/AFS 105—Organic Gardening and Farming (3 credits)

Instructor: John Reganold Office hrs: Wednesday 4:00-5:30 pm or by appointment
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Lab/Greenhouse Instructor: Brad Jaeckel Office hrs: By appointment Office: 264 Johnson
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Course Format:

Two 1-hour and 15-min lectures on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:10-10:25am in 39 Plant Biosciences.

Objectives of the Course:

1. To learn the principles and basic production practices of organic gardening and farming systems;
2. To foster critical thinking and problem solving abilities.

Reading Assignments:

The required book for the class is *The Truth About Organic Gardening* (2008), by Jeff Gillman. Additional readings will be put on 2-hour reserve at the Fischer Agriculture Sciences Library in Johnson Annex. You are responsible for all reading assignments before coming to lecture.

Exams:

There are three regular exams and a final exam. Each regular exam covers one-third of the course material. The final exam is cumulative and covers the entire course.

Writing Assignments:

Writing assignments are short one- to two-page essays on a specific topic in organic gardening and farming. Such topics may include the benefits of composting, the use of biological pest controls, etc.

Field Trips:

We will have two field trips: one to the WSU Organic Farm and the other to the WSU Compost Facility. Trips will be during a normal class period.

Website:

The syllabus, writing assignments, and grades will be posted and updated on the Soils 101 website:
<<http://classes.css.wsu.edu/soils101/>>.

Grading Breakdown:

3 regular exams (20% each)	60%
Final exam	25%
Writing assignments	15%
	<u>100%</u>

Disability: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may mean that requested accommodations might not be available. All accommodations must be approved through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in the Administration Annex Room 205 (Phone: 335-1566).

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity will be strongly enforced in this course. Any student caught cheating on any assignment will be given an F for the course and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. I encourage you to work with classmates on assignments. However, each student must turn in original work. No copying will be accepted. Students who violate WSU's Policy on Academic Integrity will receive an F as a final grade in this course. Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the university. Any student attempting to gain an unfair advantage over other students by cheating will fail the course. You must do your own work.

Soils 101/AFS 105 (Spring 2009): Schedule of Topics, Exams, and Reading Assignments

Date	Lecture (Tuesday)	Date	Lecture (Thursday)
Jan 13	Planning an Organic Garden for Multiple Crops (Brad Jaeckel)	Jan 15	Is Organic Agriculture Sustainable? (<i>Gillman book: pp. 9-10, 13-21</i>)
Jan 20	Is Organic Agriculture Sustainable? (<i>Gillman book: pp. 171-178, 190-191</i>)	Jan 22	USDA Organic Certification: (<i>FYI: www.ams.usda.gov/nop/</i>)
Jan 27	The Importance of Soil: Physical Properties	Jan 29	The Importance of Soil: Physical Properties
Feb 3	Soil Biology with film, <i>Life In The Soil</i>	Feb 5	Soil Biology and Fertility (<i>Gillman book: pp. 27-37</i>)
Feb 10	EXAM 1	Feb 12	Greenhouse Discussion and Planting (Brad Jaeckel)
Feb 17	Composting (Lynne Carpenter-Boggs)	Feb 19	Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition (<i>Gillman book: pp. 37-44</i>)
Feb 24	Compost Teas (Catherine Crosby)	Feb 26	Benefits of Green Manures and Crop Rotations (Lori Hoagland)
Mar 3	Basic Botany (Teresa Cerny-Koenig) (<i>FYI: Film at WSU Media-Materials-Services titled "An Introduction to Plant Propagation"</i>)	Mar 5	Basic Botany and Plant Propagation (Teresa Cerny-Koenig)
Mar 10	Basic Botany and Plant Propagation (Teresa Cerny-Koenig)	Mar 12	EXAM #2
Mar 17	SPRING BREAK	Mar 19	SPRING BREAK
Mar 24	Managing Plants and Transplants in the Greenhouse (Brad Jaeckel) (Meet at greenhouse)	Mar 26	Nutritional Benefits of Organic Food? (Preston Andrews) (<i>Gillman book: pp. 179-189</i>)
Mar 31	Breeding Wheat for Organic Farming Systems (Kevin Murphy) (<i>Gillman book on insect control: pp. 22-26, 66-76</i>)	Apr 2	To be announced (<i>Gillman book on insect control: pp. 77-90</i>)
Apr 7	To be announced (<i>Gillman book on insect control: pp. 90-112</i>)	Apr 9	Pest Management (Bill Snyder) (<i>Gillman book: pp. 112-124</i>)
Apr 14	Weed Management (Ian Burke) (<i>Gillman book: pp. 45-65</i>)	Apr 16	Field Trip to WSU Compost Facility (<i>Gillman book on disease control: pp. 125-147</i>)
Apr 21	Film: <i>Power Of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil</i> (<i>Gillman book on controlling other pests: pp. 148-170</i>)	Apr 23	EXAM #3
Apr 28	Field Trip to WSU Organic Teaching Farm at Tukey Horticultural Orchard (Brad Jaeckel)	Apr 30	Managing an Organic Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Enterprise (Brad Jaeckel)

Final Exam: 10:10 am, Thursday, May 7, in PBS 39.