SYLLABUS

NREM/PEPS 210 – Fall 2009

Your Instructors

The course is taught by an interdisciplinary team of researchers. Service Learning, discussion questions, and exercises assist students in learning and evaluating environmental and agricultural issues.

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Time and Place

Tuesday and Thursdays
10:30 to 11:45 a.m.
St. John 11

Text

*Environmental Science: Towards a Sustainable Future* 10th edition by Richard T. Wright.
Prentice-Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Reading assignments are highlighted in the course outline. Readings must be completed before the start of class.

Topics

**Part I: Human Food Supply**

We will discover where our food comes from by examining fundamental biological processes and current production techniques. The growing world population places heavy demands on our production capacity and we will study these issues.

**Part II: Environmental Quality and Management**

Man's impacts on the environment are profound. Our habitation and cultivation of the art can destroy the very foundation of our existence. We will investigate how we can minimize man's impacts on the environment.
Part III: Global Policy Issues

Conservation and preservation of our natural and biological resources has become a hot topic. We will review global challenges such as ozone depletion, global warming and loss of biodiversity.

Objectives of the Course

Student literacy and appreciation of food production systems, use of natural resources, and the environment often seem at odds. Students have difficulty in understanding the complex interactions between food and fiber production systems, population growth, and environmental quality. The political and popular discourse on these subjects is often polarized and contentious, rather than thoughtful and illuminating. This science-based course provides students with the foundation for making critical judgments concerning agriculture, management of natural resources, and the environment. The three objectives of the course are:

A) To highlight the interactions among food and fiber production systems, human demands, and environmental quality.

B) To introduce the many aspects of research, product development, environmental management, and scientific activity which occur in land grant colleges.

C) To provide a holistic perspective and appreciation for food, fiber, and environmental quality which students can use as enlightened citizens.

Course Policies and Grading

GRADING SYSTEM

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Exams will be multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. Make-up exams for those who are absent with a legitimate reason will consist of short and long essay questions.

No assignment will be accepted later than 2 weeks after its due date. Late submissions will lose 20% of possible points.

Grade assignment will be based on a class curve but will not be less than: 90% and above = A; 80% to 89% = B; 70% to 79% = C; 60% to 69% = D; 59% and less = failure. For students on the Credit/NonCredit option, students must make a C grade to receive Credit.