

Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture – AGCR 1371 Course Syllabus: Spring 2024

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

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Lecture Held in:

Online

Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	1:30 to 3 pm	1:30 to 3 pm	1:30 to 3 pm	1:30 to 3 pm		

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Course Description: Three hours lecture each week.

Introduction to the history, principles, and practices of sustainable agriculture as applied to local and global agriculture. An evaluation of sustainability of conventional agricultural practices will also be made from the environmental, economic, and social perspectives (“planet, profit, and people”). Case studies and other tools will be used to relate principles of sustainable agriculture to basic farming practices. (Spring)

Prerequisite(s): none

Rationale: Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture is intended to increase student’s comprehension and understanding of key sustainable agriculture concepts, including the economic, social and environmental bottom lines of agroecosystems. This class is designed to provide the introduction and foundation that our Sustainable Agriculture Degree options are built on.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Define Sustainable Agriculture through listing and explaining the three core principles: Environmental, Social and Economic.
- Demonstrate the use of sustainable agriculture principles and propose systems for raising crops and livestock that are, like nature and self-sustaining.
- List and define careers that require or benefit from comprehension of sustainable agriculture concepts.
- Compare and contrast sustainable agriculture techniques and traditional farming practices and evaluate their impact on our community.
- List and describe the financial resources for sustainable agriculture including loans and grants.

Lectures & Discussions:

This course will meet in the Ag Complex during posted meeting times. The course will consist of classroom lectures using multimedia presentations as well as classroom discussions in blackboard. Some farm visits/field trips may be included as needed to emphasis student learning outcomes.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Grades will be computed as follows:

(1) Exam:	30%
(2) Proposals	30%
Class Participation ICEV assignments	40%

Tests/Exams:

There will be 1 exams accounting for 30% of your overall grade. Exams will be multiple-choice, short answer and essays developed from ICEV, projects and class discussions.

Proposals:

Students will be required to write and develop 2 proposals and present in class on your assigned topics. Each one will be 15% of your grade.

Class Participation/ICEV assessments:

Students will receive instructions on how to purchase access cards to complete the ICEV lessons on their site. This portion of the course will be a total of 40% of your grade.

The grading scale below will be used to determine your final grade:

Points:	Grade:
90-100	A
80- 89	B
70- 79	C
60- 69	D
BELOW 59	F

Required Instructional Materials: ICEV access card, all other materials and readings will be provided through blackboard and in class.

Minimum Technology Requirements: Students must be able to access this course and the instructions through our learning management system called blackboard. If you do not have a computer capable of operating our system you should notify your instructor so that arrangement can be made.

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

Students are required to participate in both classroom and lab activities. Participation is 20% of the final grade and attendance is required to participate. Students are expected to sign on weekly and complete tasks on time. Late work will receive a 10 point deduction for each week that it is turned in late. Student should be courteous and treat one another with respect to allow for a peaceful and effective learning environment.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES**Required Textbook:**

ICEV online access will be needed to view and complete some assignments. I will explain the procedure in class of purchasing and getting your login.

Course Structure and Overview:**Tests/Exams:**

There will be 1 exams accounting for 30% of your overall grade. Exams will be multiple-choice, matching, short answer, true/false and essays developed from the iCEV online materials, classroom lecture and group projects. You will not be allowed to retake a test. Review for the exam will be given the class day prior to the exam. I strongly urge you not to miss the review. If you require special accommodations and have not registered with our student advisor, Shelia Eddy, please do so before the 12th class day.

Communications: Turnaround time for email responses is 24 hours during the week and Monday following a weekend email. Email is my preferred method of communication so please read your NTCC emails.

Institutional/Course Policy:**Student Responsibilities/Expectations:**

Students are required to participate in all classroom activities. Students are expected to be on time and ready to begin when classes start. Brain teasers or quizzes will be done in the beginning of each class period and students will only have the first 2 minutes to determine their answer. Points will be given for correct answers and no make-ups are available. Students may utilize bonus points on any one grade average but not your final grade. Student should be courteous and treat one another with respect to allow for a peaceful and effective learning environment.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations' page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Course Calendar:

Beginning week 1: Tue 1/17/23 and ending after 16 weeks students will be instructed in 6 lessons. Each lesson will require at least 2 weeks of lecture and an exam or proposal before it is complete. The schedule may vary slightly depending on unforeseen issues. It is important to note that Spring break is March 13-18, 2023 and campus will be closed for that week.

Lesson 1: Define Sustainable Agriculture

Lesson 2: Sustainable systems for raising crops and livestock

Lesson 3: Sustainable Careers

Lesson 4: Community Impact

Lesson 5: Sustainable Resources

Lesson 6: Group Project