

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
FALL 2012

Instructor: Steve Burch

Course Title: Field and Cereal Crops	Course Number: Ag 240
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 6	CRN#: 10057
Credit Units: 4	Class Days: M W
Location: Bldg. 2700 – Room 2732	Time: 17:40 to 20:50
Instructor Contact Info: Cell – (760) 427-8467 email – waterdoctor.sb@gmail.com or steve.burch@imperial.edu	

Course Textbook: Introduction to Agronomy: Food, Crops and Environment Sheaffer and Moncada

Course Description:

This course covers the principles and practices of field and cereal crops production and soil management, including study of distribution, adaptation, and utilization of the major field and cereal crops.

Measurable course objectives and minimum standard for grade of C:

The student will:

- Identify and discuss biotechnical advancements in the production of field and cereal crops.
- Identify and discuss trends that influence cereal production here and abroad.
- Identify and discuss field and cereal crops relevant to the Imperial Valley and U.S.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the general cultural operations of land preparation, irrigating, cultivating, fertilization, harvesting and marketing.
- Identify the following crops of the grass family: maize, sorghums, sugar cane, wheat, rye, barley, oats and rice plants.
- Identify the following crops of the legume family: soybeans, field beans and peanuts.
- Identify flax, cotton, tobacco, sugar beet, and safflower.

Exams and grading procedures:

- There will be 10 quizzes, each worth 10 points, and 2 exams (midterm and final), each worth 100 points. There will be no make-ups. (No exceptions!!!) - Total 300 points.
- Group oral presentation (due prior to final) worth 100 points.
- Class notebook – worth 50 points
- Homework assignments – worth 50 points.

Total possible points: 500

Grading scale (straight percentage):

A = 90% and above
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 59% or below

Assignments turned in late will not be accepted. They can, however, be turned in early.

Interaction with the instructor and other students is an integral part the learning process. However, you must personally complete any assignments. All work submitted for grading must be your own.

Attendance Policy:

- Class attendance and tardy policy follows the regulations described in the IVC catalog.
- Student may be automatically dropped after a total of 7 hours of absence from the lecture and/or laboratory unless a written petition to justify absences is approved by the instructor. (We are required by federal regulations to report drops to the veteran and financial aid office.
- It is your responsibility to drop before any deadline.
- It is your responsibility to obtain notes and work assignments from a classmate and study them. If class notes and text do not provide sufficient explanation, please call the instructor to make an appointment.
- It is your responsibility to make an appointment with the instructor if you have concerns about your progress in the class.
- It is your responsibility to complete a DROP REQUEST if you are withdrawing from the class.
- Absence from any class will result in a deduction of 3 points.
- You are considered tardy if you arrive after roll is called. Tardiness for any class will result in a deduction of 1 point.

Other school policies:

- No food or beverage (except bottled water) allowed in classroom.
- No children allowed in classroom.
- All electronic devices are to be turned off, or to silent mode.
- Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. DSP&S, Room 2117, Health Science Building (760) 355-6312.

Course Outline – By Week (subject to change at the discretion of the instructor):

Aug 20 – History of Ag / Ag Today
Aug 27 – Classifying and Naming Crops
Sept 3 – **Monday (Holiday)** – Food from Plants
Sept 10 – Chemistry of Food and Plants
Sept 17 – Plant Anatomy and Morphology
Sept 24 – Plant Physiology and Growth
Oct 1 – Improving Plants
Oct 8 – Environment / Agroecosystems - **Midterm (Wed)**
Oct 15 – Soils
Oct 22 – Cropping Systems
Oct 29 – Tillage and Crop Establishment
Nov 5 – Weeds
Nov 12 – **Monday (Holiday)** – Plant Disease and Insects
Nov 19 – Harvesting / Crop Profiles: Grasses
Nov 26 – Crop Profiles: Legumes / Crop Profiles: Other Crops
Dec 3 – Review/Presentations – **Final (Wed)**

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes: ISLO1 = communication skills; ISLO2 = critical thinking skills; ISLO3 = personal responsibility; ISLO4 = information literacy; ISLO5 = global awareness

Course Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to: identify and discuss biotechnical advancements in the production of field and cereal crops. The student will also be able to

identify and discuss trends that influence cereal production here and abroad, as well as, identify and discuss field and cereal crops relevant to the Imperial Valley and U.S.