COURSE DESCRIPTION

Organic Pest Management is open to advanced undergraduates and graduate students from CANR, CNS departments as well as other interested students.

Pest management in organic agroecosystems involves a more holistic outlook compared to pest management in “conventional” agroecosystems. In part this is due to the types of pest management tools available to the organic producer, but also because of qualitative differences between organic and conventional approaches towards agriculture. The three goals of this course are to: 1) provide students with knowledge regarding the philosophical, ecological, and regulatory underpinnings of organic agriculture as they pertain to pest management, 2) provide students with baseline knowledge of the three major pest management disciplines (Entomology, Plant Pathology, Weed Science), and 3) help students develop an ecological and economic understanding of pest management programs. The course consists of a combination of lecture, discussion, and laboratory activities and is led by Dr. Grieshop with guest lectures on specific topics. Course prerequisites are Junior, Senior, or Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR:    TEACHING ASSISTANT:
Dr. Matt Grieshop    John Pote
205 Center for Integrated Plant Systems    potejohn@msu.edu
517.432.8034
www.opm.msu.edu/?cat=9
grieshop@msu.edu

COURSE FORMAT

The course meets two times per week and consists of a combination of lectures, laboratory exercises, student and guest led discussions and an individual project/presentation. The course is divided into two units: Organic Agriculture and Pest Management Disciplines and Ecological Pest Management. Students will be evaluated through a series of two exams, three laboratory reports, one student led discussion, and a final project.

COURSE CREDIT: 3 Credit Hours    TIMES: T,TH 5:10-7:00 PM
READING LIST
Readings will be drawn from textbooks and primary literature. Students can expect between 50 and 100 pages of reading per week.

Includes selected chapters from:

COURSE WEBPAGE/BLOG:
Course lectures, assignments, schedules, and other printed course materials will be made available on the course webpage: www.opm.msu.edu/?cat=9 Materials will be posted within 3 days of distribution in class. Comments are supported but require administrator approval.

GRADING RUBRIC (90%-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; <60 = F)
Exams (33% of the course grade)
Exams will be cumulative but focus on the unit directly preceding them. Exams will contain a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.
Student Led Discussions (12% of the course grade)
Students will be responsible to co-facilitate one to two discussions. For each discussion three or more papers will be assigned to the class. Facilitators will provide a printed talking point list as well as five questions to help begin class discussion.
Laboratory Reports (30% of the course grade)
There will be three laboratory exercises, each worth 10% of the total course grade. Lab reports will be due about a week after the completion of the in class portion. Labs will be returned with corrections to the student and students that score less than 90% will be given the opportunity to revise their report to receive up to a 90% grade. Students are encouraged to turn in work electronically in .doc or .pdf format. Should a lab be cancelled, its percentage of the grade will be distributed among remaining labs.
Individual Project (25% of the course grade)
Each student will complete a project highlighting some aspect of organic pest management. Possible topics include: pest management for a specific agroecosystem, or a pest management topic relating to graduate student research. Students will present a brief proposal presentation (5 minutes) and a one page handout/visual aid (5% of total grade) in the first course unit. During the final weeks of the course students will present a 15 minute presentation on their project and turn in a written report (8% and 12% of total grade, respectively). A rough draft of the final report will be required prior to final submission.
COURSE OVERVIEW (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

UNIT ONE: Organic Agriculture and Pest Management Disciplines (13 Periods)

9/2-9/21 Lectures: Agricultural history, Organic Movement Lab 1: Farm Tour; Discussion 1: Energy in agriculture

9/23-10/12 Lectures: Pest Management Disciplines Discussion 2: Commodification of Organic Agriculture Discussion 3: GMOs and Organic Ag.

9/28 Project Proposals

10/14 Exam I

UNIT TWO: Ecological Pest Management (15 Periods)


12/02 Exam II 11/18 Project Rough Draft Due

11/25 Thanksgiving: Class Cancelled 12/7 Student Presentations I

12/9 Class Cancelled (Great Lakes EXPO)

12/13 Student Presentations II (5:45-7:45) & Final Project Draft Due

ATTENDANCE/GRADING POLICY:
Students will be permitted to miss two class meetings with no academic penalties. Absences beyond these three will result in a 10% total course grade reduction per absence. Work and exam completion are due on assigned dates, late work/exams will be docked a penalty of 10% of the possible grade per calendar day late. Rescheduling of exams will depend on instructor availability. Attendance and late work policy may be waived/altered if previous arrangements are made with the instructor or under extraordinary circumstances.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY
We assume that the student is honest and that all course work and examinations represent the student’s own work. Violations of the academic integrity policy such as cheating, plagiarism, selling course assignments or academic fraud are grounds for academic action and/or disciplinary sanction as described in the university’s student conduct code.

Incidents of plagiarism are taken very seriously and will be pursued. Students are strongly cautioned not to copy any text verbatim or use someone else’s ideas on class quizzes, tests, reports, projects, or other class assignments without using appropriate quotations and source citations.

For University regulations on academic dishonesty and plagiarism, refer to http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/rule32.htm and http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/plagiarism.html