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 provide students with knowledge of: 1) the philosophical, scientific, ecological, and regulatory underpinnings of organic pest management, 2) the three major pest management disciplines (Entomology, Plant Pathology, Weed Science), and 3) how to approach pest management problems using an ecological and economic approach. 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:
Dr. Matt Grieshop
205 Center for Integrated Plant Systems
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TEACHING ASSISTANT:
Joe Riddle
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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
OFFICE HOURS: T 10-11AM, TH 12-1 PM
TIMES: T, TH 5:10-7:00 PM
LOCATION: 351/352 Nat. Sci.
READING LIST
Reading are from textbooks and primary literature with between 50 and 100 pp/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 (>93% = A, >90% = A-, > 88% = B+, >83% = B, >80% = B-, > 78% = C+, >73% = C, >70% = C-, > 68% = D+, >63% = D, >60% = 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 matching, true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Student Led Discussions (12% of the course grade)
Students will be responsible to co-facilitate one discussion. For each discussion three or more papers will be assigned to the class. Facilitators will provide a printed talking point list as well as 4+ questions to help foster class discussion. All students will take a short 3-5 question quiz on the papers prior to the discussion. Discussion grade will be determined 50% based on the quizzes and 50% on discussion preparation.

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 one 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% are required to provide a revised draft. 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 working 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
8/30-9/18 Lectures: Agricultural history, Organic Movement Lab 1: Farm Tour, Discussion 1: Energy in agriculture
9/20-10/11 Lectures: Pest Management Disciplines Discussion 2: Commodification of Organic Agriculture; Lab 2: Allelopathic potential
10/16 Exam I

UNIT TWO: Ecological Pest Management
10/18 Disc. 3: GMO’s and Organic Ag.
10/23: Project Proposals 11/1 Disc. 4: Biodiversity and PM
11/08 Project Working Draft Due Discussion 5: Organic Development
11/22 Thanksgiving: Class Cancelled
11/29 Exam II 12/4 Student Presentations I
11/29 Exam II 12/4 Student Presentations I
12/6 Class Cancelled (Great Lakes EXPO)
12/10 Student Presentations II (5:45-7:45PM) & Final Project Draft Due

ATTENDANCE/GRADING POLICY:
Students will be permitted to miss two class meetings with no academic penalties. Absences beyond these 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

All written work will be processed through anti-plagiarism software. Students will be guided on the proper use of citations and quotations to avoid plagiarism as part of the course and provided warnings when potential plagiarism is detected.