

# AGG 3501: Environment, Food, and Society

Spring 2017; 3 Credits

Meeting Times: T 8-9 NRN 331, WEB via Canvas

**Instructor:** Erin Alvarez, M.S.  
352.294-1582  
[erinalvarez@ufl.edu](mailto:erinalvarez@ufl.edu)

**Office Hours:** T 12:30-2:30 pm, W 10-12, by appt  
3121 McCarty Hall

**Course Description:** Global issues and trends in population growth, natural resource (soil, water and plant genetic biodiversity) utilization, climate change and potential impacts of current trends on agriculture, natural resources, global food security and sustainability. (B)

**Justification:** This course is designed to prepare students with specific competencies to address environmental issues related to agriculture and society. The course will emphasize conceptual understanding of impacts and explore solutions from different points of view. Course content is selected to develop student abilities to critically analyze issues related to the interactions among agricultural production, global societies, and the environment.

**Course Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Analyze environmental and social issues that prescribe or are derived from food production systems.
- Apply the theoretical knowledge covered in the course to agricultural production situations and make scientifically sound evaluations.
- Identify current and future environmental and cultural challenges related to food production.
- Communicate issues and solutions related to food-based agriculture to a diverse public audience.
- Develop recommendations for current and future solutions to challenges in food production.

## Course Schedule:

| Week : Dates | Topic   | Major Dates                       |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 : 1/10     | Introduction; History, Trends, Issues           |                                   |
| 2 : 1/17     | US Agricultural and Environmental Movements     |                                   |
| 3 : 1/24     | Agricultural and Environmental Policies         | Project 1 Proposal Due 1/24       |
| 4 : 1/31     | Food Systems                                    |                                   |
| 5 : 2/7      | Food Security                                   | 2/7 Site Visit: UF Field to Fork  |
| 6 : 2/14     | Food justice, Production, Policy, and Diet      |                                   |
| 7 : 2/21     | Global Perspectives: Case Studies and Analysis  | Food Pantry Comparison Due 2/21   |
| 8 : 2/28     | Biodiversity, Pest Management and Pesticide Use | Project 1 Due 2/28                |
| 9 : 3/7      | SPRING BREAK!!!!                                |                                   |
| 10 : 3/14    | Land Use  | Project 2 Proposal Due 3/14       |
| 11 : 3/21    | Soils, N and C Cycles                           |                                   |
| 12 : 3/28    | Freshwater Resources                            | Soil Profile Comparison Due 3/28  |
| 13 : 4/4     | Saltwater Resources                             |                                   |
| 14: 4/11     | Atmospheric Impacts, Ozone layer, Aerosols      | Water Resource Profile Due 4/11   |
| 15: 4/18     | Policies to Programs: Case Studies and Analysis | Project 2 Due 4/18                |
| Online       | Final Presentations and Peer Evaluation         | Peer and Project Eval Due by 4/23 |

**Readings and Text:** No required textbook or course pack. Readings will be assigned by course topic and material will be made available by your instructor. Everyone is expected to have access and the capacity to review a variety of material online-this may be articles, videos, and research publications.

**Communication:** Effective communication on everyone's part is important to success in this course. Please check your ufl email regularly (especially before class) to catch any announcements or changes. It is especially helpful when you communicate with me regarding planned or unexpected absences, issues with course content or access, special needs or situations of which I should be aware, etc. If you miss a class due to an unexcused absence, I will not provide you with notes-please check with a classmate regarding what we covered. Emails are the best way to reach me, but I encourage you to stop by my office and/or call as well.

This course will use Canvas, available through your e-learning portal at <https://ufl.instructure.com/>.

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## Grading\*:

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Assignments:   | 65% |
| Projects:      | 30% |
| Participation: | 5%  |

## Grading Scale:

|    |         |
|----|---------|
| A  | 94-100% |
| A- | 90-93.9 |
| B+ | 87-89.9 |
| B  | 80-86.9 |
| C+ | 77-79.9 |
| C  | 70-76.9 |
| D+ | 67-69.9 |
| D  | 60-66.9 |
| E  | <60     |

## Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**Assignments:** In-class assignments will be given regularly to check knowledge and serve as an attendance marker. *In-class assignments missed due to unexcused absences cannot be made up.*

Graded assignments will be returned within 48 hours of submission. In cases where grading will be delayed, the instructor will notify you by the due date. Where applicable, due dates will be announced in class, given with the assignment sheet, and listed on the Canvas course calendar.

Make-up assignments are permitted for excused absences-you will be offered an extension based on length of absence and assignment timeline.

*There is a 48-hour grace period for all due dates (except in-class assignments). Submissions will not be accepted after this grace period.*

**Participation:** Your active participation is crucial to your success and the quality of your experience in this course, and is impossible when you are not actively engaged. Preparation and completion of assigned material outside of class time will be necessary for meaningful participation in class.

## Projects:

1. *Issue Analysis* (Individual)
2. *Analysis and Recommendation Communication* (Group)

Deadlines listed on course calendar-project details will be given in class.

***Your instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course as needed and will notify you of any changes in as timely a manner as possible. Notification will be through Canvas and your ufl email.***

## Course Evaluation Process

Please take the time to evaluate this course and me as your instructor! I really do use your feedback, and the college uses it to determine all sorts of things. I'll send out a mid-semester evaluation to adjust the course as necessary, but the final end-of-semester evaluation from UF online is very important.

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

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### Academic Honesty, Software Use, Campus Helping Resources, Services for Students with Disabilities

#### Academic Honesty

In 1995 the UF student body enacted an [honor code](#) and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students.

**The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.**

On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: "**On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.**"

Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean, Student Honor Council, or Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution in the Dean of Students Office. (Source: 2011-2012 Undergraduate Catalog)

It is assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as a group project, in writing by the instructor.

This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

#### Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

#### Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)

Counseling Services

Groups and Workshops

Outreach and Consultation

Self-Help Library

Training Programs

Community Provider Database

Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)

#### Services for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues.

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)