3 Credit hours	T 5, R 5-6	Fifield 2316
Instructor: Erin Alvarez	Email: erinalvarez@ufl.edu	Office hours: TBD, McCB 3121

Course description:
Plants that Feed the World provides a broad introduction to the 25 most important food crops that feed the majority of humans today. This is an introductory course for majors and non-majors who have no previous academic experience with food crop plants. The course introduces the interaction of humans and food crop plants and the role of food crops in the development of societies, along with botanical and morphological characteristics of these crops, soil and climatic adaptations, major producers and consumers, nutritional attributes, processing needs, and the cultural factors influencing use and production. Students are expected to be able to identify the crops and their seeds, know the role of these plants in the world's food supply, where these crops are grown, where they originated and how they are utilized in various cultures. Plant identification will be a core requirement and will include the wild relatives and centers of origin of important food crops to emphasize the role of selection and plant breeding in modern crop development.

Student Learning Outcomes:
SLO 1 – Content: Students will be able to identify the major food crops, the component(s) of the crop utilized for food, and where these crops originated. Students will also understand the role of these crops in the development of civilizations and cultures, and how the region, environment and climate influences what crops can be grown. Demonstrations will show the transition of modern crop cultivars from their wild ancestors, and how humans influenced this development. There will be a minimum of 3 outdoor labs where students will be exposed to crops grown under field conditions.
SLO 2 – Critical Thinking: To help understand the role of crops in feeding the world, students will be required to research a particular culture or ethnic group in the developing world to determine what primary crops provide the basis for their diet. This would include the crops to feed animals for meat, eggs and milk also included in their diet. They would then present this material to the class and lead a discussion as to why those crops were chosen, how these crops are obtained, and how those crops influence the way these people live and function in their daily lives.
SLO 3 – Communication: To provide an opportunity for interaction with other cultures, students will be asked to interview an international student and learn about a commodity or dish unique to their culture or region that is based on one of the major food crops covered in class. The student will then be asked to provide a video on how to make the product or dish or to provide an informal in-class presentation.

Course Objectives:
After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1.   demonstrate an understanding of how and where the major food crop plants are grown and utilized
2.   identify crops and the seeds/edible parts of these crops
3.   explain the areas of origin for the crop species and how wild species transformed to modern cultivars
4.   discuss how crop production influenced cultural development
5.   demonstrate how different cultures utilize crops as products in their daily lives

Course Format: Two 1-period lectures, One 1-period lab,
Course materials, grades, and communication will be available via the course page on Canvas: https://lss.at.ufl.edu/ Please use the online tutorials offered: https://wiki.helpdesk.ufl.edu/FAQs/E-Learning

Attendance: You are expected to attend every class, on time, but life happens. Absences will be excused if they are UF-approved, written documentation is expected. Each individual is responsible for her own missed information reconnaissance-the instructor will not provide notes or missed presentation content. In-class assignments cannot be made up.
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Textbooks: No required textbooks. *Recommended reading will be provided via Canvas or in class.*

Grading*:
Assignments/Quizzes: 60%
Projects: 35%
Participation: 5%

Grading Scale: C+   77-79.9
A   94-100%   C   70-76.9
A-   90-93.9   D+   67-69.9
B+   87-89.9   D   60-66.9
B   80-86.9   E   <60
For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Assignments: Assignments will be given regularly in class, and will be graded and returned within 48 hours of submission. In cases where grading will be delayed, the instructor will notify you at the due date. Due dates are listed on course website calendar. *There is a 48 hour grace period for each due date.* Assignments will not be accepted after this grace period. *In-class assignments missed due to unexcused absences cannot be made up.* Announced quizzes on course material will also be given.

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:
Project 1: Crops Profile
Project 2: Food, Crops, and Cultures
Project details will be given in class and posted to Canvas.

Week : Dates	Topic	Major Dates
1 :	Introduction, Food Sources	
2 :	Centers of Diversity, History of Agriculture	
3 :	Environment, Resources, Challenges	
4 :	Human Uses of Plants, Plant Structure	Garden Day!
5 :	Crop Diversity and Conservation	
6 :	Biodiversity and Cultures: Corn	*Project Proposals Due*
7 :	Corn and Cereals	
8 :	Cereals	Garden Day!
9 :	Pulses/Legumes	
10 :	Pulses/Legumes	*Project Crops Profile Due*
11 :	Nuts, Seeds	
12 :	Sugars, Starches	*(classes online this week!)*
13 :	Fruit, Vegetables, other Crops	
14:	Project Day (*no live meeting for class this week!*)	*Thanksgiving Holiday*
15:	Future Challenges, Final Presentations	
16:	Final Presentations	*Final Project Due*

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 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.

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/

> 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/**

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/**