
SAG

Sustainable Agriculture

SAG 101 INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE. (3)

Broad introduction to the environmental, economic and cultural components of sustainable food production and marketing. The definition, emergence, and growth of sustainable agriculture are discussed along with pertinent soil, crop and livestock management practices. Relationships between environmental stewardship, producer profitability, and community-based food systems are emphasized.

SAG 201 CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON SUSTAINABILITY. (3)

Examines cultural dimensions within the concept of sustainability through a close reading of texts addressing the relationship between people and nature. The application of cultural constructs used by individuals and societies in experiencing, interpreting and impacting the natural world are studied. Insights and observations of noted writers on environmental issues are discussed in relation to the interdependence between individuals, civilizations, and nature. Prereq: SAG 101. This course is a Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR) course in certain programs, and hence is not likely to be eligible for automatic transfer credit to UK.

SAG 386 PLANT PRODUCTION SYSTEMS. (4)

In-depth analysis of the underlying principles of plant production systems. Successful strategies, based on application of the principles developed by lecture and laboratory activities, will be discussed in either agronomic or horticultural contexts. Special attention will be given to minimizing the environmental impact of the plant production techniques employed. Prereq: PLS 210 and PLS 366 or concurrently or consent of instructor. (Same as PLS 386.)

SAG 390 AGROECOLOGY. (3)

A general introduction to ecological principles and processes applied to agricultural ecosystems, including interactions between plants, soils, and animals on population, community and ecosystems scales. Course concepts will be applied to agricultural ecosystems that are of economic importance and ecological significance to the state of Kentucky. Emphasis will be placed on understanding how an ecological perspective can inform sustainable land management, the ecological basis for best management practices, and the interdisciplinary nature of agroecosystem management. (Same as PLS 390.)

SAG 395 RESEARCH IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE. (1-6)

Independent research related to some aspect of sustainable agriculture under the direction of a research mentor. The research may be conducted in the College of Agriculture, some other unit on campus, or at an approved off-campus entity. Projects can include, but are not limited to, laboratory experiments, field-based research, and studies involving sociology, economics, anthropology, or related disciplines. There is a clear expectation that quantitative data collection and analysis will be an integral part of the research project. Prereq: Consent of instructor and approval of Learning Contract.

SAG 397 APPRENTICESHIP IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE. (3)

Provides students with hands-on experience operating an organic community supported agriculture produce farm and marketing its harvest in the local community. Students receive training across the full range of production and marketing activities under the guidance of the Course Coordinator and the professional staff of the farm management team. Prereq: SAG 101 and SAG 201, or consent of instructor.

SAG 490 INTEGRATION OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRINCIPLES. (3)

Examination of the complex scientific and social issues involving sustainable agriculture systems. Intensive experience in critical analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data will be provided, and students will consider substantive ethical issues and global themes. Students will evaluate the sustainability of different world agricultural systems and consider the potential implications. Prereq: Senior standing in College of Agriculture, SAG 201, 397.