

# Plants and Civilizations

## AGRI/IE 116 Fall 2009

### General information and syllabus for lecture and recitation

v2.1 – August 21, 2009

#### Instructors

Dr. Andrew Norton [Andrew.Norton@Colostate.edu](mailto:Andrew.Norton@Colostate.edu); 491-7421 Office: C 030 Plant Sciences.

Office Hours: Tu 11:00 – 12:00, Wed. 1:00 – 2:00, or by Appointment.

Matthew Camper [camperma@colostate.edu](mailto:camperma@colostate.edu); 491-0713 Office: C 031 Plant Sciences.

Office Hours: MWF 11:00 – 12:00.

Teaching Assistants:

Stephanie Szostek: [stephasp@colostate.edu](mailto:stephasp@colostate.edu)

Sections: Friday 10:00 – 10:50, Fri 11:00 – 11:50, Friday 12:00 – 12:50.

Office Hours: TBD

John Lovell: [John.T.Lovell@colostate.edu](mailto:John.T.Lovell@colostate.edu)

Sections Thurs. 1:00 – 1:50, Thurs. 2:00 – 2:50, Thurs 3:00 – 3:50.

Office Hours: TBD

Shiloh McCollum: [Shiloh.McCollum@colostate.edu](mailto:Shiloh.McCollum@colostate.edu)

Sections: Friday 10:00 – 10:50, Friday 1:00 – 1:50, Friday 3:00 – 3:50.

Office Hours: TBD

**Contacting Us:** The best way to get in contact with one of us is to either speak with us right before or right after lecture or to email us. Email is usually faster than calling us. **If you email, make sure that you put “Plants and Civilizations” in the subject line of your email.** Because of the numbers of students in this class and the numbers of emails we receive each day, keeping track of our course-related email is much, much easier if you identify this in the subject line. **Please include your full name in your email so that we can respond to you.**

Also, please note that the university’s spam filter has been known to reject email from sources such as Yahoo! or msn accounts. If we don’t respond please speak with us to see if this is what has happened, or use your CSU account to send the email.

**Contacting You:** Throughout the semester we may need to contact you as individuals or in an email to the entire class. This is only possible if the university has your correct email address on file. You can set your official email address by:

- 1) Log into RamWeb (<https://ramweb.colostate.edu/index.aspx>)
- 2) Under the Record tab select the “change my email address” link and follow the instructions on this page.

#### Lecture Periods

Lecture Monday and Wednesday 3:00 – 3:50 p.m., C101 Plant Sciences. In lecture we present on biological, cultural, historical, economic and political aspects of plants and or plant products, and attempt to assess, analyze or synthesize different perspectives or opinions about plants and human interactions.

**Questions are always welcome during lectures.** It’s a safe bet that if you have a question about something we’ve said, many other students have the same question.

#### Recitation Periods

There are 50-minute recitation sections throughout the day on Thursday and Friday in E005 or E008 Plant Sciences. These rooms are located in the basement wing (east side) of this building. Recitation is REQUIRED.

### Course Management System

The lecture schedule, syllabus, additional readings, practice exam questions, recitation activities and your grades are all available on RamCT. We use RamCT extensively in this course. Access this site at <http://www.ramct.colostate.edu>. If you have trouble gaining access, with file compatibilities, etc please let Matt or Andrew know and we will do our best to help you.

### General Course Objectives

The relationships between plants and human civilizations are among the most important factors influencing human survival and evolution. These relationships have had enormous impacts on human history, sociology, and culture. Throughout history, plants have influenced art, religion, social behavior, and customs; and they continuously impact the social, political, religious, and the economic realms of human activity. The need and desire for plants and plant products has been a driving force in exploration, religion, wars, slavery, and innovation.

This course will explore and compare the ways in which various civilizations have used plants and the roles plants have played in the development and survival of cultures from various civilizations throughout history.

1. To gain content knowledge of the relationships between plants and human civilizations and cultures.
2. To develop **critical thinking skills** involving analysis and interpretation of the relationship between plants and human civilizations and cultures. Areas of emphasis will include the ways plants have impacted civilizations and cultures, changes in these relationships over time within a culture or civilization, and inherent differences pertinent in these relationships.
4. To develop written and verbal communication skills through expository writing and discussion of the relationships between plants, human civilizations, cultures and analysis and/or interpretation of these relationships.

### Methods of Evaluation

(1) Exams. (300 points) There will be three exams given during lecture, each for 100 points. These exams will contain multiple-choice, true-false and (very) short answer questions. At least one of the short answer questions on each exam will come from assigned readings. This portion of your grade emphasizes **content knowledge**. If you attend lectures and complete the reading assignments you should do well on these exams. Sample questions will be made available to you 1 week prior to each exam date.

The remaining portion of your grade (50%) is from recitation.

Recitation emphasizes the development of **information acquisition** skills, the ability to **evaluate the reliability** of this information, **the ability to synthesize and analyze** information, **and the ability to communicate** your analyses or synthesis. This portion of the course integrates and expands upon the concepts and topics we present in lecture. In recitation you may earn points from:

(2) Term Paper (100 points). You will be required to write a 7 – 8 page research paper on a plant of your choice. On this paper you will approach your plant from 2 – 4 different perspectives (i.e. plant natural history, use in different cultures, economic value, how these have changed through time, etc.). This paper is due **Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**. In addition to the 100 points available for the paper, there are points for turning in (a) a description of the research you've done on your topic (20 points), (b) a Title and Prospectus for your paper (20 points, approximately 2 pages), and a complete draft of your paper for peer review (due in recitation one week before the paper due date): 20 points.

(3) 2 short summaries of recitation activities: 15 points each. These will be completed during group work in the recitations.

(4) Group debates (30 points). Teams will debate controversial topics during the last two weeks of

recitation. Full participation in the debates gets you 30 points.

(5) Participation in Recitation (80) points: Each week of recitation you can receive up to 6 points for participating in the weeks activities or discussion. Note that  $6 * 15 = 90$ , but only a total of 80 points are available here.

### Point Summary

Semester Point Breakdown	Points Available
3 exams (September 28th in class, November 2nd in class, December 14 <sup>th</sup> 11:20 – 1:20)	3@100 = 300
Term Paper	100
Term Paper steps	60
Write ups of recitation activities (2@15)	30
Debates	30
Participation in Recitation	80

A+ : 582 and above, A: 558-581, A- 540-557, B+ 522-539, B 498-521, B- 480-497, C+ 462-479, C 420-461, D 360-419, F less than 360.

**iClicker bonus.** We will be using the iClicker system during lectures. This system allows you to respond to questions that we ask during lecture, and for us to get instant feedback on your opinions of a topic or whether we are presenting material clearly. If we record a vote from you in 80% of the classes with iClicker sessions, we will add 20 points to your point total above! NOTE: You need to register your iClicker at <https://wsprod.colostate.edu/cwis262/clicker/registration.aspx> for us to know that you were present and voted. Other useful iClicker FAQs are at <https://wsprod.colostate.edu/cwis262/clicker/studentfaq.aspx>

### What if I miss an exam?

Make up exams will be given for the following reasons. A) Documented university field trip, sports activity or other official university-sanctioned event (see: <http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/front/advising-and-registration.aspx>). B) legitimate, documented illness with a note from your doctor or Hartshorn Health Clinic.

**In both cases YOU MUST NOTIFY ANDREW NORTON OR MATT CAMPER IN ADVANCE. This may be done in person or by email or by phone call. After the fact excuses, ski trips, etc are not acceptable reasons for a make-up exam. It is YOUR responsibility to notify us prior to the exam!!!**

### Recitation

#### Teaching Assistants

Teaching assistants will be leading recitation lectures, discussions and projects. Please feel free to email your TAs with questions about recitations and/or lectures. Office hours are by appointment. Your TA will make all reasonable efforts to meet with you about the course in a timely manner

*NOTE: If you have exam scheduling conflicts, please contact Dr. Norton ([Andrew.Norton@Colostate.edu](mailto:Andrew.Norton@Colostate.edu)). Your recitation instructors cannot reschedule lecture exams!*

#### What Is A Recitation?

Recitations are weekly class meetings where students are separated into much smaller groups than the lecture portion of the course. The recitation section of this course is designed to complement and expand the information and concepts you learn about in lecture, and allows you to practice critical thinking and communication skills. The types of skills that you will gain through participation in recitation sections are

very different than those you will obtain from lecture. It is **extremely** important that you regularly attend recitation. Each week's work builds on the previous week's lectures, homework and in class assignments. The number of points available for participating in recitation activities and assignments is 300, out of a course total of 600.

### Recitation Objectives

- To develop **research** skills so that you can communicate and convey legitimate, current and relevant information to an audience. We expect you to improve your ability to determine the reliability and objectivity of the sources and information that you find.
- To develop improved **analysis** skills by examining a given question from multiple perspectives and using information from multiple sources. We expect that you will improve in your ability to analyze and synthesize information, and then to extend this by asking new, interesting and important questions.
- To develop improved **written and verbal communication** skills so that you can communicate your analysis and synthesis to others
- To develop skill sets necessary to respectfully, thoroughly and critically evaluate peers in their presentation and writing skills, and offer constructive criticism to improve these skills.

Our goal is to help you develop critical thinking, analytic and communication skills that will help you in the rest of your academic career, in your present or future job, and as a member of society at large.

### Recitation Sections, Times, and Room Numbers

Stephanie Szostek: [stephasp@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:stephasp@lamar.colostate.edu)

Sections:           Friday 10:00 – 10:50 (E005 Pl. Sci.)  
                          Friday 11:00 – 11:50 (E005 Pl. Sci.)  
                          Friday 12:00 – 12:50 (E005 Pl. Sci.).

John Lovell: [John.T.Lovell@colostate.edu](mailto:John.T.Lovell@colostate.edu)

Sections           Thurs. 1:00 – 1:50 (E005 Pl. Sci.).  
                          Thurs. 2:00 – 2:50 (E005 Pl. Sci.).  
                          Thurs 3:00 – 3:50 (E005 Pl. Sci.).

Shiloh McCollum: [Shiloh.McCollum@colostate.edu](mailto:Shiloh.McCollum@colostate.edu)

Sections:           Friday 10:00 – 10:50 (**E008 Pl. Sci.**).  
                          Friday 1:00 – 1:50 (E005 Pl. Sci.).  
                          Friday 3:00 – 3:50 (E005 Pl. Sci.).

### Reading Assignments

**Required text: Pollan, Michael. 2001. The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World.**

**Random House, New York.** Over the course of the semester we will read the entire book. See the course schedule for the due dates for each chapter. This is an extremely well written and interesting book on the interactions between 4 separate plants and humans. In addition to this book we have selected several other short reading assignments that support and expand upon topics presented in lecture. These assignments will be available in .pdf format on RamCT. It is extremely important that you keep up with the reading assignments. Recitation activities are based on these readings and if you haven't done the reading you will not be able to complete that week's recitation activities.

### Recitation Assignments, In-Class Writing and Activities and Participation

Each week you can receive up to 6 points associated with the recitation and discussion session. If you participate actively in discussion, have completed assigned readings and out-of-class homework, and faithfully complete all in-class writing and group activities you will receive the full points. If not, you will receive a lesser number of points (or none). We expect that all of you will earn all 6 points for all recitations. Each week your performance in recitation activities (both in class and homework, if any) is evaluated by your TA with a "plus, check, minus" system:

**Plus:** Great Job! Thanks for putting in the effort. (6 points)

**Check:** OK, but try to ask more questions or respond to others' questions. (3-4 points)

**Minus:** Missed recitation, didn't do the reading, or didn't participate in the activities: (0-2 points)

There are fifteen weeks where assignments are due and in-class participation and attendance is required, and you may earn up to 80 points over the semester. There are  $(15 \times 7) = 90$  points available and you can receive a maximum of 80 points for participation. This means that you can miss 1 recitation without it reducing your point total, assuming that you receive full credit for the recitations that you do attend.

Your TAs are expected to keep the course grade roll up to date with their assessment of your performance in recitation. Your grade entries are available on RamCT.

### **What if I Have to Miss Recitation?**

a) Official, excused absence (University sponsored field trip, sports meet, other official, sanctioned event): You may make up the recitation by attending and participating in another section that week. Please make arrangements with your TA AT LEAST one week prior to the missed section. NOTE: There are two recitations where you will participate in a peer review session. You must complete a peer review (have your paper reviewed and review another's paper) BEFORE you can turn your finished paper in. You will lose points for turning in a late paper if you do not get this done on schedule (see below). NO EXCEPTIONS. Make arrangements ahead of time.

b) Unofficial, un-excused absence (anything other than (a) above): Your TA MAY elect to let you make up the recitation by attending another recitation that week. This is at his or her discretion. Check in advance. Your other option is to let this become one of the weeks dropped from your grade (see **Recitation Assignments, In-Class Writing and Activities and Participation**, above).

### **Due Dates / Late Penalties**

Late work: We will deduct 10% of your grade for each week or portion thereof for work that is turned in late. (1 day late: -10%. 8 days late: -20%, etc).

### **Plagiarism**

We take the issue of plagiarism very seriously in this class. "Plagiarism includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one's own without proper acknowledgment. Examples include a submission of purchased research papers as one's own work; paraphrasing and/or quoting material without properly documenting the source" (CSU Policies and Guiding Principles, 2008).

In AGRI/IE 116 all electronic copies will be spot checked for plagiarism issues by both recitation instructors and/or web-crawling (spider) software (e.g. howoriginal or essaycrawler). If you are caught plagiarizing materials you will receive a 0 for the project, and depending upon the severity of the offense, an F in the course. All examples of plagiarism or academic dishonesty and will be reported to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conflict Services for additional disciplinary action as outlined in the student handbook under the heading "academic integrity" (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/front/policies.aspx>).

### **Grading Appeals**

If you are not satisfied with your grade on an assignment, you may appeal this grade within one week of our making the graded assignment available to you. All appeals must be in writing to your TA and must detail why you believe you should have received a higher grade. Your assignment will be graded by another of the TAs in the class within one week of your appeal. This decision will be final.

### **How much work is this course?**

Colorado State University expectations for student workload are that for each credit hour of instruction, you will need to spend, on average, 3 hours to attend lecture and recitation and to complete out of class readings and assignments. Our expectation is that you will be able to excel in this course by devoting, on average, 9 hours per week to course related activities. This means that on average, you should expect to spend 6 hours per week completing reading assignments and out of class writing exercises and papers.