

# Topics in Sustainable Bioenergy

AGRI180A1/Spring 2014 Course Syllabus

General information and syllabus for lecture and recitation

## Course instructor:

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Office hours: Tue 12-1pm or by appointment

## General Course Objectives:

This course will provide an overview of current bioenergy feedstocks, research and technologies for bioenergy conversion as well as provide the societal, ethical and political context that helps shape the field.

## Specific objectives:

1. Gain specific content knowledge and vocabulary in the major areas encompassed by the field of bioenergy
2. Understand the factors which determine the sustainability, economics and suitability of bioenergy solutions
3. Strengthen critical thinking and data interpretation skills

## Course structure:

### Lecture

Lectures are Monday and Wednesdays 1:00 -1:50 a.m., E008 Plant Sciences. In the lecture we will present

### Recitation

The recitation is on Fridays 1:00 -1:50 a.m., E008 Plant Sciences. **Recitation is Required.**

### Course Materials

The course will be managed through RamCT. The course schedule, syllabus, readings, recitation activities and your grades will available there. Access this site at <http://www.ramct.colostate.edu>. If you have problems accessing this site or accessing files, let me know.

## Methods of Evaluation:

1. Exams (300 points). Three exams will be given during lecture, 100 points each. These exams will have multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Questions will come from lecture material and one short answer question will come from assigned readings.

Exam 1: Wednesday March 5th

Exam 2: Wednesday April 9th

Exam 3: Monday, May 15th 11:50-1:50pm (during finals week, non-cumulative)

2. Quizzes (100 points). 12 unannounced quizzes will be given and the two lowest scores will be dropped. They will contain lecture and assigned reading material and are designed to help review key points when studying for the exam.

Make up exams and quizzes will be given for the following reasons: A) Documented university field trip, sporting activity or other university sanctioned event or B) Legitimate, documented illness with a note from your doctor or Hartshorn Health Clinic.

In all cases, there must be ADVANCED notice, let me know either in person or with email. It is your responsibility to notify me prior to the exams. You will have one week to make up the missed work.

3. Bioenergy Journal

Bioenergy Journal (100 points) will be graded based on some combination of projects listed below. There is an "early turn in date" (April 4<sup>th</sup>); projects turned in before or at this date will be graded and handed back and students are allowed to correct mistakes and hand them in again for a chance at full credit. All projects are due April 25<sup>th</sup> and will be handed back at the final exam. You are allowed and encouraged to work together but you must write up and turn in your reviews and critiques separately (Identical reviews will receive no credit).

Projects must be turned in in hard copy and through SafeAssign (on the RamCT homepage). This must be done by the final due date (April 25<sup>th</sup>) or you will receive a zero for your projects. You must upload in one file, the program will not accept multiple files. Please talk to me if you have questions. The document must be 12 point font, have 1 inch margins and can be double spaced.

Each project folder should include the following:

1. Title page (don't forget your name!)
2. Table of contents-individual projects listed in order and the number of points you should receive for full credit
3. Individual projects
4. Reference page (for any sources you use)
5. Signed Honor Pledge

The hard copy of the Projects should be in a single folder, binder or stapled together. And will be graded on the content of each project, grammar and spelling, and fulfillment of project directions. The projects must be written in full sentences. No bullet points please.

Project list options:

- A. Energy Movie/book/television reviews:** (40 pt, up to 2 entries of this type). One page write up that contains a short plot summary of the movie (4-5 sentences) and description of the main characters and their motivations. And addresses several of these questions: Do you feel the movie/book/television show was accurate (Why)? What would have made it better and what would you have changed (and why)? What did you like or not like (and why)? From which perspective was the movie/book/TV show trying to convey or sway the viewer?
- B. Popular news:** (20 pt, up to 4 entries of this type) Entries should be from various topics covered in class. For example you could have 4 entries (one on policy, two on feedstocks, on one new engineering technology). These should be a half of a page and contain the "who, what, where, when and why".

- C. Seminars and talks on campus or in Colorado:** (20 pt, up to 3 entries of this type). I will announce seminars in class as I hear of them. You are also welcome to suggest seminars to the class. These should be full page summaries and also include the “who, what, where, when and why”. There should be a statement of why this seminar is bioenergy related. They can also include what you didn’t understand and anything you did not agree with and why.
- D. Creative works:** including poetry (short poem 0.25 of a page (5 pt), half page (10 pt), full page 20 points, 20 points possible), comics (30 pt, 2 entry possible), artwork with creative description (30 pt, one entry possible), short movies (60 pt, one entry possible). For artwork and movies prior approval should be sought.
- E. Website review:** (20 pt, 2 possible entries) These half page entries should contain the weblink, describe the website, the target audience, describe if there an agenda, describe what is good/bad (and why), what you would add/remove/or change. If more than one entry, these need to be from different websites.
- F. Your ideas!:** Your chance to be creative. Depending on what you are proposing, it may be up to full 100 points. These projects must be cleared with me in advance with a mutual understanding of how many points are possible.
4. Assignments (60 total points) These will come in lecture and recitation. Some of them are on the class schedule. Many of them are in class activities (think free points!).
5. Debate-This will be covered in recitation and on a separate document. (30 points)
6. Attendance and participation (60 pt) Part of your grade will come from in class attendance and participation. If you come to class you will get the full 30 points. If you make an effort to ask questions or comments throughout the semester you will not have a problem receiving all the points here.

#### Point Summary:

Grades are strictly point based.

<b>Semester Point Breakdown</b>	<b>Points Available</b>
3 Exams	3 @ 100 = 300
Quizzes	100
Bioenergy Projects	100
Assignments	60
Debate	30
Attendance and Participation	60
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>650</b>

A+: 630 and above, A: 605-629, B+: 565-604, B: 539-564, C+: 462-538, C: 455-461, D: 390-454, F: less than 390.

#### Due dates and late penalties

I will deduct 10% of your grade for each week that something is turned in late. For example: 1 day late = 90% best possible grade or 9 days late = 80 % is the maximum credit that could be given.

**Academic Integrity**

This class has a strict integrity policy in line with academic integrity policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog (Section 1.6) and Student Conduct Code. Please refer to the course “Cheating, Plagiarism, and Honor Pledge” policy found on the RamCT homepage.

The Student conduct code can be found at: <http://www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu/conduct-code>

The Colorado State University General Catalog: <http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/>

**Classroom Etiquette**

Please turn off your cell phone

Please do not read the newspaper, fill out the crossword puzzle, text, listen to music, etc.

Students who disrupt class will be asked to leave.