

# Plants and Civilizations

## AGRI / IE 116 - Fall 2017

General information and syllabus for lecture and recitation  
Updated Sept 09, 2017

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### Course Instructor:

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 - 12:00 PM or by appointment.

### Teaching Assistants:

Stacy Endriss: [Stacy.Endriss@colostate.edu](mailto:Stacy.Endriss@colostate.edu)  
Thursday Morning Recitation Sections  
Office Hours: Tues and Wed 4:00 - 5:00PM in C033 Plant Sciences or by appointment

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Thursday Afternoon Recitation Sections  
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Friday Morning Recitation Sections  
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Friday Afternoon Recitation Sections  
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## General Course Objectives

The relationships between plants and humans are among the most important factors influencing human civilizations, culture and survival. These relationships have had enormous impacts on human history, sociology, economics and sustainability. 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 cultures use and are shaped by plants, and how the dynamics of power and culture shape the use and exploitation of plants and plant products. Our specific objectives are:

1. To gain **content knowledge** of the relationships between plants and human civilizations and cultures.
2. To develop **critical thinking skills** including information acquisition, interpretation and analysis of the relationship between plants and humans. 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 how exploitation, production or use of plants and plant products is shaped by and shapes differences in culture and power.
3. To develop **written and verbal communication skills** through expository writing and discussion of the relationships between plants, civilization, and culture.

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## Contacting Us

The best way to contact us is to either speak with us right before / 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 - Important!

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. To set your official email address:

- 1) Log into RamWeb (<https://ramweb.colostate.edu/registrar/Public/Login.aspx>)
- 2) Under the **Record** tab select the "change my Email Address" link and follow the instructions on this page.

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## Course Structure

### Lecture Periods

Lectures are Monday and Wednesday 3:00 - 3:50 p.m., C101 Plant Sciences. In lecture I present the biological, cultural, historical, economic and political aspects of plants and/or plant products, and assess, analyze and/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 Plant Sciences. The room is located in the east wing basement of this building. Recitation is a REQUIRED portion of this course. You must enroll in a recitation section when you enroll in the course.

### Course Management System

The lecture schedule, syllabus, additional readings, practice exam questions, recitation activities and your grades are all available on Canvas. We use Canvas extensively in this course. Access this site at <https://colostate.instructure.com>. If you have trouble gaining access, with file compatibilities, etc. please let me know and I will do my best to help you.

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## Methods of Evaluation

(1) Exams (300 points). There will be 4 take home, on-line exams, each for 75 points. These exams will contain multiple-choice, true-false and short answer questions, often from the course readings or recitation activities. Online exams will be delivered through Canvas. Each exam will be available for you to take over a weekend, starting at 5:00 pm on Friday and ending at 11:59 pm on Sunday - see schedule below. If you attend lectures, take notes and complete the reading assignments you should do well on these exams. Sample questions for the exams will be made available to you 1 week prior to each exam date.

Exam 1: Friday, September 15 at 5:00 pm - Sunday, September 17 at 11:59 pm.

Exam 2: Friday, October 13 at 5:00 pm - Sunday, October 15 at 11:59 pm.

Exam 3: Friday, November 10 at 5:00 pm - Sunday, November 12 at 11:59 pm.

Exam 4: Friday, December 8 at 5:00 pm - Sunday, December 10 at 11:59 pm.

Note: The last exam is **not** a cumulative final, but will be the same length and structure as the other exams.

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. In this paper you will approach your plant from 2 or more different perspectives (i.e. plant natural history, use in different cultures, economic value, how these have changed through time, etc.). 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 and in class peer review (due in recitation one week before the paper due date): 20 points.

(3) 2 short summaries of recitation activities: 10 points each. These will be completed during group work in recitation.

(4) Group debates (30 points). Teams will debate controversial topics during the last two weeks of recitation. Full participation in presentation of your debate team's topic and assessment of other debate teams earns you 30 points.

(5) Participation in Recitation (90) points: Each week of recitation you can receive up to 6 points for participating in that week's activities or discussion.

### Point Summary

Semester Point Breakdown	Points Available
4 exams	4@75 = 300
Term Paper	100
Term Paper steps	60
Write ups of recitation activities	(2@10) = 20
Debates	30
Participation in Recitation	90
Total Points	600

A: 560 and above, A-: 540-559, B+: 520-539, B: 500-519, B-: 480-499, C+: 460-479, C: 420-459, D: 360-419, F: less than 360.

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## What if I need to 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://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/academic-standards/academic-policies/>). B) Legitimate, documented illness with a note from your doctor/Clinic C) Family emergencies - with documentation from student case management.

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

## 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 spending, on average, 9 hours per week on 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.

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## Recitation

The recitation component is integrated into this class, and does not appear as a separate entry on your transcript. Recitation emphasizes active learning approaches and will help you develop the skills you need to excel in this and other courses, and in your chosen career once you leave CSU. It is important that you make every effort to attend recitation.

### Teaching Assistants

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

### What Is A Recitation?

Recitations are weekly class meetings where students are separated into 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.

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## 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.

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## 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 a well written and interesting book on the interactions between humans and 4 separate plants.

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 Canvas. 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 every one of you will earn all 6 points for each recitation. 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)

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.

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## 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.**

### 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).

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## Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

We take the issue of academic integrity very seriously in this class. You are expected to do your own work and to not access notes or the web during an exam, copy from someone else's exam or to provide exam answers to another student during an exam. We proctor in class exams and will take actions to ensure that all students are following this policy.

### Plagiarism

"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, 2011).

Our motivation for rigorously enforcing a no-plagiarism policy is two fold: First, plagiarism is a form of theft. Taking someone else's words or ideas without attribution is stealing someone else's work. Second, copying someone else's work does not fulfill the purpose of the assignment, which is for you to develop critical thinking and analysis skills. You demonstrate this by presenting your own, new, synthesis and analysis in your writing. Simply copying or paraphrasing from source materials does not demonstrate this, however insightful the source(s) may be. Good writing generates new knowledge. This should be your goal in this class, in other courses at CSU and in your career after you leave here.

In AGRI/IE 116 all written work will be spot checked for plagiarism issues by both recitation instructors and originality checking software such as VeriCite. 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 Conduct Services for additional disciplinary action as outlined in the student handbook under the heading "academic integrity/Misconduct"

(<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-responsibilities/> ).



### **Canvas Email System Utilization**

Using the University's systems or networks for personal gain; for example, by selling access to your eID or to university systems or networks, or by performing work for profit with university resources (e.g. selling your notes or promoting a personal agenda) in a manner not authorized by the University is strictly forbidden within the CSU Code of Conduct and also CSU's policy for Acceptable Use for Computing and Networking Resources. All cases of this type of code violation will be reported to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Case Management and dealt with following CSU legal counsel guidance.

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### **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 or exam 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.