

**Composting Principles and Practices**  
**SOCR 343**  
**Fall 2017**

Catalog Statement

Fundamentals of compost production, use and regulation will be presented through lectures, fieldwork and a fieldtrip.

Course Format

This course will meet for 1 two-hour session per week for 8 weeks and students will be required to participate in lecture, lab and fieldtrip components.

Course Objectives

Students enrolled in this course will:

- 1) Develop an understanding of the role of compost and nutrient cycling in a sustainable agricultural system.
- 2) Become familiar with how compost is produced, classified, used, and regulated.
- 3) Experience hands-on learning exercises through field work and case studies
- 4) Examine current compost research in scientific journals.

Course Specifics

Instructor: Adriane (Addy) Elliott  
Office: C107, Plant Sciences Bldg., Phone: 491-6984  
Email: [Adriane.Elliott@ColoState.edu](mailto:Adriane.Elliott@ColoState.edu) **(BEST WAY TO REACH ME!)**

**Suggested (not required)** Textbook: On-Farm Composting Handbook. 1992. Robert Rynk (ed.), Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service, Ithaca, NY.

Other readings: Distributed in class.

Prerequisites: SOCR 240 Introduction to Soil Science

Grading:	Take home exams (2):	90 points each =	180 points
	Homework (2):	20 points each =	60 points
	Final project (1):	40 points =	40 points
	Class participation*:	20 points =	<u>20 points</u>
			<b>300 points total</b>

\*actively collecting data from your group's compost pile, entering data into Canvas and managing the pile (add water, more food, turn pile, etc.) will result in 15 of your 20 class participation points.

## Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

We take the issue of academic integrity very seriously in this course. 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 reserve the right to proctor all 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, 2017-2018).

Our motivation for rigorously enforcing a no-plagiarism policy is twofold: 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 this course all written work will be spot checked for plagiarism issues by both instructors and originality checking software such as VeriCite. If you are caught plagiarizing materials you will receive a 0 for the assignment/exam/project, and depending upon the severity of the offense, an F in the course. All examples of plagiarism or academic dishonesty 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/>).

**This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy {Section 1.6} of the Colorado State University General Catalog, the Student Conduct Code, and University Principles of Community.** Please refer to The University Principles of Community found on page 9 of this syllabus.

Please refer to our cheating and plagiarism policy found on the Canvas homepage and page \_\_ of this syllabus.

Student Conduct Code: <http://www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu/conduct-code.aspx#conduct>

## **VI. General Information: Principles of Community**

In this course we strive to follow and extend Colorado State's University's Principles of Community, and welcome spirited discussion, lively debate and pursuit of knowledge in a manner that respects each of us as individuals.

The Principles of Community support the Colorado State University mission and vision of access, research, teaching, service and engagement. A collaborative and vibrant community is a foundation for learning, critical inquiry, and discovery. Therefore, each member of the CSU community has a responsibility to uphold these principles when engaging with one another and acting on behalf of the University.

**Inclusion:** We create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community, including their various identities, skills, ideas, talents and contributions.

**Integrity:** We are accountable for our actions and will act ethically and honestly in all our interactions.

**Respect:** We honor the inherent dignity of all people within an environment where we are committed to freedom of expression, critical discourse, and the advancement of knowledge.

**Service:** We are responsible, individually and collectively, to give of our time, talents, and resources to promote the well-being of each other and the development of our local, regional, and global communities.

**Social Justice:** We have the right to be treated and the responsibility to treat others with fairness and equity, the duty to challenge prejudice, and to uphold the laws, policies and procedures that promote justice in all respects.

---

### Need Help? Rams Take Care of Rams

Reach out and ask for help if you or someone you know is having a difficult time. Always feel free to come and talk to me; I will always make myself available to help connect you with any resources you need. CSU is a community that cares for you. If you are struggling with drugs or alcohol and/or experiencing depression, anxiety, overwhelming stress or thoughts of hurting yourself or others please know there is help available. Counseling Services has trained professionals who can help. Contact 970-491-6053 or go to <http://health.colostate.edu>. If you are concerned about a friend or peer, tell someone by calling 970-491-1350 (or visit <http://safety.colostate.edu/tell-someone.aspx> ) to discuss your concerns with a professional who can discreetly connect the distressed individual with the proper resources. Rams take care of Rams.

## **Service Animals in the Classroom**

This course will follow all of the policies regarding service animal access to the classroom. The full university policy may be found here: <http://policylibrary.colostate.edu/policy.aspx?id=747>

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The University will not discriminate against individuals with disabilities who use service dogs, nor, subject to the terms of this Policy, deny those persons access to programs, services and facilities of the University. In addition, only under certain limited conditions as stated in this policy, the University may permit an individual with a documented disability to have an Emotional Support Animal in a University residential facility. Pets are not permitted in any University building, including residence halls, except for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and other veterinary facilities in accordance with their rules and policies, or when otherwise specially allowed with advance approval from Environmental Health Services for bona fide academic or University business purposes.

### **Service Dogs**

Subject to some limitations, a service dog may accompany an individual with a disability throughout campus, such as in classrooms, recreational facilities and campus residences. It is strongly encouraged, but not required, that a service dog be identifiable to others through a visible signifier (e.g., vest or harness). Individuals with a disability who require a service dog in the classroom should contact Resources for Disabled Students (RDS) for assistance with accommodations.

### **Emotional Support Animals**

An emotional support animal (ESA) is one that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability. ESAs are not permitted in university buildings, except in the rare situation where use of an ESA in University housing is approved in advance by the University upon the submission of appropriate documentation, as set forth in this policy.

ESAs are not permitted in non-residential buildings such as classrooms, laboratories, business offices, recreational facilities, dining halls, or the Lory Student Center; they are limited to the disabled individual's residence in a University residence hall, apartment, or other housing unit, and permitted only with prior approval.

### **Financial and Food Resources**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact your academic advisor or the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify your instructor if you comfortable in doing so.

CSU is committed to supporting students who are experiencing undue hardship and providing emergency funds when possible, as well as food relief to our community. If you find yourself in need of emergency funds, please reach out to the office of Financial Aid. If you are seeking food relief, please go to the Rams against Hunger webpage to see which sources of support you are eligible to access:

<https://lsc.colostate.edu/slice/slice-engagement/rams-against-hunger/>

## Course Outline

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	Aug. 24	Review Syllabus USDA-NOP Rule, Compost: Overview, C: N Ratio Relationship handout
2	Aug. 31	Make Class Compost Piles at <b>The CSU Horticulture Center (1707 Centre Ave</b> , just south of the main campus and north of Gardens at Spring Creek) – bring gloves and wear weather appropriate clothes/shoes <b>Homework #1: Complete the handout from today’s activity. Due in class on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>.</b>
3	Sept. 7	Compost Management (porosity, pH, O <sub>2</sub> , odor, flies, salts, other) <b>Take Home Exam #1 on Canvas (due next week)</b>
4	Sept. 14	Calculating a Compost Application Rate Discuss observations of group compost piles <b>Take Home Exam #1 DUE TODAY</b> <b>Assign Final Presentation today</b>
5	Sept. 21	Local Compost Systems – challenges/opportunities <b>Homework #2: Read assigned articles/ write 3-page discovery essay about something you learned/thought about for the first time after completing the readings.</b>
6	Sept. 28	Compost Quality Measurements, Interpretation, Use and Rates <b>Take Home Exam # 2 on Canvas (due next week),</b> <b>finish entering class compost pile data by Oct. 1 at midnight</b>
7	Oct. 5	Environmental Assessments for Compost Site Determination / State Regulations (CO Dept. of Ag. and CO Dept. of Public Health & Environ.) Discuss class compost piles <b>Take Home Exam # 2 DUE DEC. 1</b>
8	Oct. 12	<b>Student presentations</b>