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| For Academic Affairs and Research Use Only | |
| CIP Code: |  |
| Degree Code: |  |

**New Course Proposal Form**

**[ ] Undergraduate Curriculum Council**

**[xx] Graduate Council**

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| **[ ] New Course or [X]Experimental Course (1-time offering) (Check one box)** |

Signed paper copies of proposals submitted for consideration are no longer required. Please type approver name and enter date of approval.

Email completed proposals to [curriculum@astate.edu](mailto:curriculum@astate.edu) for inclusion in curriculum committee agenda.

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| *Steven Green* 2/15/2018 **Department Curriculum Committee Chair** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Enter date…  **COPE Chair (if applicable)** |
| *Donald Kennedy* 3/1/2018 **Department Chair:** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Enter date…  **Head of Unit (If applicable)** |
| *Steven Green* 2/15/2018 **College Curriculum Committee Chair** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Enter date…  **Undergraduate Curriculum Council Chair** |
| *Timothy Burcham* 3/1/2018 | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Enter date…  **Graduate Curriculum Committee Chair** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Enter date |   **General Education Committee Chair (If applicable)** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Enter date…  **Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs** |

1. Contact Person (Name, Email Address, Phone Number)

Steven Green, [sgreen@astate.edu](mailto:sgreen@astate.edu), x-3463

2. Proposed Starting Term and Bulletin Year

Su 2018

3. Proposed Course Prefix and Number (Confirm that number chosen has not been used before. For variable credit courses, indicate variable range. *Proposed number for experimental course is 9*. )

PSSC 5923

4. Course Title – if title is more than 30 characters (including spaces), provide short title to be used on transcripts. Title cannot have any symbols (e.g. slash, colon, semi-colon, apostrophe, dash, and parenthesis). Please indicate if this course will have variable titles (e.g. independent study, thesis, special topics).

Agroecological Systems

5. Brief course description (40 words or fewer) as it should appear in the bulletin.

Field-based course to develop a deeper conceptual and analytical framework for understanding agricultural ecosystems of the region. Students will work in teams and visit numerous working farms and agricultural enterprises in their quest to understand agricultural system sustainability.

6. Prerequisites and major restrictions. (Indicate all prerequisites. If this course is restricted to a specific major, which major. If a student does not have the prerequisites or does not have the appropriate major, the student will not be allowed to register).

1. **NO** Are there any prerequisites? 
   1. If yes, which ones?

Enter text...

* 1. Why or why not?

Enter text...

1. **YES** Is this course restricted to a specific major?
   1. If yes, which major? Agriculture and EVS

7. Course frequency(e.g. Fall, Spring, Summer). *Not applicable to Graduate courses.*

Enter text...

8. Will this course be lecture only, lab only, lecture and lab, activity, dissertation, experiential learning, independent study, internship, performance, practicum, recitation, seminar, special problems, special topics, studio, student exchange, occupational learning credit, or course for fee purpose only (e.g. an exam)? Please choose one.

Experiential learning

9. What is the grade type (i.e. standard letter, credit/no credit, pass/fail, no grade, developmental, or other [please elaborate])

standard letter

10. **YES** Is this course dual listed (undergraduate/graduate)?

11. **NO** Is this course cross listed?

*(If it is, all course entries must be identical including course descriptions. Submit appropriate documentation for requested changes. It is important to check the course description of an existing course when adding a new cross listed course.)*

**11.1** – If yes, please list the prefix and course number of cross listed course.

Enter text...

**11.2** – **Yes / No** Are these courses offered for equivalent credit?

Please explain. Enter text...

12. **NO** Is this course in support of a new program?

a. If yes, what program?

Enter text...

13. **NO** Does this course replace a course being deleted?

a. If yes, what course?

Enter text...

14. **NO** Will this course be equivalent to a deleted course?

a. If yes, which course?

Enter text...

15. **YES** Has it been confirmed that this course number is available for use?

*If no: Contact Registrar’s Office for assistance.*

16. **NO** Does this course affect another program?

If yes, provide confirmation of acceptance/approval of changes from the Dean, Department Head, and/or Program Director whose area this affects.

Enter text...

**Course Details**

17. Outline (The course outline should be topical by weeks and should be sufficient in detail to allow for judgment of the content of the course.)

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| **Unit** | **Topic of Discussion** | **Major Assignments** |
| Unit 1 | Methods of ecosystem analysis | Preliminary readings |
| Unit 2 | Components of sustainable agriculture |  |
| Unit 3 | Row crop agroecosystems | Reflection paper |
| Unit 4 | Animal agroecosystems |  |
| Unit 5 | Alternative farming systems | Oral presentation |
| Unit 6 | Natural ecosystem vs agricultural ecosystem |  |
| Unit 7 | Ancillary agricultural enterprises | Written term paper |

18. Special features (e.g. labs, exhibits, site visitations, etc.)

This course will include visits to numerous farms and agricultural enterprises in the region. This course will rely heavily on team projects, including the major writing assignment and the major presentation.

19. Department staffing and classroom/lab resources

Enter text...

1. Will this require additional faculty, supplies, etc.?

No additional faculty; supplies covered under a USDA grant

20. **NO** Does this course require course fees?

*If yes: please attach the New Program Tuition and Fees form, which is available from the UCC website.*

**Course Justification**

21. Justification for course being included in program. Must include:

a. Academic rationale and goals for the course (skills or level of knowledge students can be expected to attain)

With a global population approaching 8 billion people and rising, the need to produce more food on existing agricultural land is imperative. Producing more food in a sustainable manner that does not induce more harm to the global environment is essential. Students need first hand practical knowledge of agricultural practices that are being implemented by successful and environmentally sustainable farmers in order to be able to understand and defend these practices while the majority continue as usual. This knowledge must be gained in the field as opposed to out of a book.

Upon completion of this course, students will have:

1. Defined and described the properties of agroecosystems.
2. Experienced an investigative framework for analyzing the origin, impact and sustainability of agricultural practices used on farms within the region.
3. Gained experience in defining, assessing and interpreting factors that contribute to greater sustainability of agroecosystems.
4. Reviewed and reflected on the basic ecological principles that build and shape agricultural systems.
5. Considered how worldview affects people’s (their own and others) views of agroecosystems and of sustainability.
6. Interacted directly with farmers, agricultural scientists, business managers, faculty, and other students who share expertise and interest in agroecosystems and their sustainability.

b. How does the course fit with the mission established by the department for the curriculum? If course is mandated by an accrediting or certifying agency, include the directive.

This course specifically addresses program SLOs to 1) demonstrate both verbal and written communication skills and 2) develop advanced skills in critical thinking and analysis applied to solve relevant problems.

c. Student population served.

This course serves graduate students in agriculture and in environmental sciences.

d. Rationale for the level of the course (lower, upper, or graduate).

This is a graduate level course. Students will need to synthesize information gained through their undergraduate agriculture or environmental science program and other life experiences. As a split level course (4000/5000), graduate students will serve as team leaders, will receive additional research level instruction beyond what the undergraduate students will receive, and will participate in an oral final exam.

**Assessment**

**<<Program level assessment not required for an experimental course>>**

**Relationship with Current Program-Level Assessment Process**

22. What is/are the intended program-level learning outcome/s for students enrolled in this course? Where will this course fit into an already existing program assessment process?

Enter text...

23. Considering the indicated program-level learning outcome/s (from question #23), please fill out the following table to show how and where this course fits into the program’s continuous improvement assessment process.

*For further assistance, please see the ‘Expanded Instructions’ document available on the UCC - Forms website for guidance, or contact the Office of Assessment at 870-972-2989.*

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| **Program-Level Outcome 1 (from question #23)** | Type outcome here. What do you want students to think, know, or do when they have completed the course? |
| Assessment Measure | Please include direct and indirect assessment measure for outcome. |
| Assessment  Timetable | What semesters, and how often, is the outcome assessed? |
| Who is responsible for assessing and reporting on the results? | Who (person, position title, or internal committee) is responsible for assessing, evaluating, and analyzing results, and developing action plans? |

*(Repeat if this new course will support additional program-level outcomes)*

**Course-Level Outcomes**

24. What are the course-level outcomes for students enrolled in this course and the associated assessment measures?

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| **Outcome 1** | Students will be able to evaluate sustainable agricultural practices. |
| Which learning activities are responsible for this outcome? | Interviews with farmers, group discussions, and presentations on agricultural evaluation models. |
| Assessment Measure | End of term presentation of sustainable agriculture practices graded with rubric. |

*(Repeat if needed for additional outcomes)*

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| **Outcome 2** | Students will become knowledgeable in particular agricultural practices that promote sustainable agriculture. |
| Which learning activities are responsible for this outcome? | Interviews with farmers, group discussions, and presentations on sustainable agricultural practices. |
| Assessment Measure | Final term paper graded with rubric. |

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| **Outcome 3** | Students will learn how to work as a team. |
| Which learning activities are responsible for this outcome? | Student groups will work together to develop farmer interview questions, participate in group discussions over each unit, develop a group presentation, and produce a final group report. |
| Assessment Measure | Group presentation and group final report graded by rubric, and team peer evaluations. |

**Bulletin Changes**

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| **Instructions** |
| **Please visit** [**http://www.astate.edu/a/registrar/students/bulletins/index.dot**](http://www.astate.edu/a/registrar/students/bulletins/index.dot) **and select the most recent version of the bulletin. Copy and paste all bulletin pages this proposal affects below. Follow the following guidelines for indicating necessary changes.**  **\*Please note: Courses are often listed in multiple sections of the bulletin. To ensure that all affected sections have been located, please search the bulletin (ctrl+F) for the appropriate courses before submission of this form.**  - Deleted courses/credit hours should be marked with a red strike-through (~~red strikethrough~~)  - New credit hours and text changes should be listed in blue using enlarged font (blue using enlarged font).  - Any new courses should be listed in blue bold italics using enlarged font (***blue bold italics using enlarged font***)  *You can easily apply any of these changes by selecting the example text in the instructions above, double-clicking the ‘format painter’ icon 🡪 , and selecting the text you would like to apply the change to.*  *Please visit* [*https://youtu.be/yjdL2n4lZm4*](https://youtu.be/yjdL2n4lZm4) *for more detailed instructions.* |