

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage:	Spring 2022
Discipline:	Agricultural Sciences/International Education
Course Number and Title:	AGRI/IE 116 Plants and Civilizations
Division:	Lower
Faculty Name:	Jennifer Boussetot
Semester Credit Hours:	3

Prerequisites: None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 have 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.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this class students will be able to:

- Gain content knowledge of the relationships between plants and human civilizations and cultures.
- 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.
- Develop written and verbal communication skills through expository writing and discussion of the relationships between plants, civilization, and culture.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: James P. Smith, Jr.

TITLE: Plants and Civilization: An Introduction to the Interrelationships Of Plants and People

PUBLISHER: Random House, New York.

ISBN: N/A, free online

DATE/EDITION: December 2006; Fourteenth Edition

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Embarkation Day – January 5

1: Introductions, Course Overview, Class Norms, Journal. *Lecture:* Basic Terminology and Naming Plants. *Reading:* Section 1.00-1.03 *Plants and Civilization*.

2: Introduce the Comparative Experiential Project, Journal. *Lecture:* A Chronical of Economic Botany. *Reading:* Section 1.04 *Plants and Civilization*.

3: Journal. *Lecture:* 25 Families of Economic Importance. *Reading:* Section 1.05 *Plants and Civilization*.

4: Journal. *Lecture:* Domestication of Plants. *Reading:* Section 2 *Plants and Civilization*.

5: Journal. *Lecture:* Exploration for Plants. *Reading:* Section 3 *Plants and Civilization*.

6: Exam 1, Journal. *Lecture:* Two Modern Revolutions. *Reading:* Section 4 *Plants and Civilization*.

7: Journal. *Lecture:* Food Plants Overview. *Reading:* Section 5.00-5.02 *Plants and Civilization*.

8: Journal. *Lecture:* Roots, Stems, Leaves, and Flowers. *Reading:* Section 5.03-5.04 *Plants and Civilization*.

9: Journal. *Lecture:* Major Cereals. *Reading:* Section 5.05 *Plants and Civilization*.

10: Journal. *Lecture:* Minor Cereals. *Reading:* Section 5.06 *Plants and Civilization*.

11: Journal. *Lecture:* Pseudocereals and Pulses. *Reading:* Section 5.07-5.08 *Plants and Civilization*.

12: Exam 2, Journal. *Lecture:* Vegetables. *Reading:* Section 5.09 *Plants and Civilization*.

13: Journal. *Lecture:* Fruits. *Reading:* Section 5.10 *Plants and Civilization*.

14: Journal. *Lecture:* Nuts. *Reading:* Section 5.11 *Plants and Civilization*.

15: Journal. *Lecture:* Tropical Fruits. *Reading:* Section 5.12 *Plants and Civilization*.

16: Journal. *Lecture:* Forage and Wild Collected Plants. *Reading:* Section 5.13-5.14 *Plants and Civilization*.

17: Journal. *Lecture:* Sugar and Spices. *Reading:* Section 6 *Plants and Civilization*.

18: Exam 3, Journal. *Lecture:* Beverage Plants. *Reading:* Section 7 *Plants and Civilization*.

19: Journal. *Lecture:* Industrial Plants. *Reading:* Section 8 *Plants and Civilization*.

20: Journal. *Lecture:* Poisonous Plants. *Reading:* Section 9 *Plants and Civilization*.

21: Discuss Comparative Experiential Project Presentations, Journal. *Lecture:* Medicinal Plants. *Reading:* Section 10 *Plants and Civilization*.

22: Journal. *Lecture:* Psychoactive Plants. *Reading:* Section 11 *Plants and Civilization*.

23: Comparative Experiential Project Presentations, Journal. *Lecture:* Ethnobotany. *Reading:* Section 12 *Plants and Civilization*.

24: Final Exam, Field Class Assignment Due, Comparative Experiential Project Presentations, Journal.

25—FINAL CLASS: Comparative Experiential Project Presentations, Journal.

Disembarkation Day — April 20

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea® field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete a Comparative Experiential Project that span multiple countries.

Field Class & Assignment

STUDENTS: Field Class proposals listed below are not finalized. Confirmed ports, dates, and times will be posted to the [Spring 22 Courses and Field Class page](#) when available.

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute 20% of the contact hours for each course.

Outcomes: This course is all about where plants came from and how they led to the build up (and sometimes downfall) of civilizations. I want students to see the living history and be able to note that crops have moved all over the world.

Types of Activities: Field trips to farms, farmers markets, grocery stores and restaurants.

Timing: Later in the voyage. This is so students have a solid foundation on crop centers of origin before the field trip.

Field Class Assessment: 3-5 page paper (25 points)

Criteria	Ratings		
	Proficient (5 points)	Acceptable (2.5 points)	Insufficient (0 points)
Organization	Follows all directions, includes all sections	Incomplete, does not follow all directions	Does not answer all points or directions
Content	Contains original ideas and supporting explanations	Contains some ideals and/or supporting explanations	No details are given or no effort has been made to be creative
Clarity	Clear and specific with examples	Content is loosely affiliated; somewhat unclear connections	Unclear and unconnected
Research	Cites reliable sources	Few sources are cited or citations are weak	Cites no sources or is off topic
Grammar	Clear writing, no errors	A few errors	Multiple errors or unclear

Comparative Experiential Project

The CEP is the required comparative assignment that span multiple countries. The Comparative Experiential Project constitutes at least 5% of the grade for each course.

Students will take pictures (with permission, if the owner is present) and notes on crops or food in 3-5 other countries to include in their final presentations to compare to the field trip. Students will reflect on these experiences through journaling too.

Criteria	Ratings		
	Proficient (10 points)	Acceptable (5 points)	Insufficient (0 points)
Content	Contains original ideas and supporting explanations	Contains some ideals and/or supporting explanations	No details are given or no effort has been made to be creative
Clarity	Clear and specific with examples	Content is loosely affiliated; somewhat unclear connections	Unclear and unconnected
Research	Cites reliable sources	Few sources are cited or citations are weak	Cites no sources or is off topic
Presentation Length	10-12 minutes	Under 10 or over 12	Under 8 or over 15
Question & Answer	Handles all questions with poise and clarity	Rambles or unclearly answers questions	Answers no questions or makes little effort to

METHODS OF EVALUATION

40% Exams (4 total) – 100 points total
 20% Journals (due each class meeting) – 50 points total
 20% Field Class & Field Class Assignment – 50 points total
 20% Comparative Experiential Project – 50 points total

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea® coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea® in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the academic partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%: F
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea® classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

CLASSROOM CLIMATE

Semester at Sea® is committed to the Voyage Community Values. Consequently, the classroom environment is founded on mutual respect, community, and an aim toward equity. The Voyage Community Values support the creation of a collaborative and vibrant community. Our community is the foundation of our learning, critical inquiry, and discovery. Each member of this course has a responsibility to uphold these values when engaging with one another.

With that, please review the following Voyage Community Values:

- **Well-Being:** We commit to the health, safety and well-being of ourselves, all members of our voyage community, *and* members of the communities we will visit.
- **Interconnectedness:** We understand our actions and attitudes have an impact locally and globally. We always seek to positively affect the planet and the people around us near and far.
- **Respect:** We honor the inherent dignity of *all people* with an abiding commitment to freedom of expression, scholarly discourse and the advancement of knowledge. We have the right to be treated, and the responsibility to treat others, with fairness and equity.
- **Inclusion:** We ensure inclusive environments that welcome, value, affirm and embrace *all people* within the shipboard community and in each country we visit.

- **Integrity:** We are honest and ethical in all of our interactions, including our academic work. We hold ourselves accountable for our actions.
- **Excellence:** We model the highest academic standards of preparation, inquiry and knowledge and consistently seek to understand complex issues and express informed opinions with courage and conviction.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea® provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from students' home institutions verifying the accommodations received on their home campuses (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit verification of accommodations to their Student Services advisor as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage. More details can be found within the **Course Registration Packet**, as posted to the [Courses and Field Classes page](#) no later than one month prior to registration.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea® courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

AUTHOR: National Geographic
 BOOK TITLE: Edible: an illustrated guide to the world's food plants
 DATE: 2008

AUTHOR: L.T. Evans
 BOOK TITLE: Feeding the ten billion: plants and population growth
 DATE: 2001

AUTHOR: Ben-Erik Van Wyk
 BOOK TITLE: Food plants of the world: an illustrated guide

DATE: 2005

FILMS

TITLE OF FILM: Eat: the story of food
DISTRIBUTOR: National Geographic Channel

TITLE OF FILM: Food, Inc.
DISTRIBUTOR: Magnolia Pictures, Participant Media and River Road Entertainment

TITLE OF FILM: In defense of food : an eater's manifesto
DISTRIBUTOR: Kikim Media

TITLE OF FILM: Sustainable The future of our food system determines the future of mankind
DISTRIBUTOR: Hourglass Films

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Londa Schiebinger
BOOK TITLE: Plants and Empire
DATE: 2004
PAGES: all

AUTHOR: M.J. Balick, P.A. Cox
BOOK TITLE: Plants, People, and Culture: the Science of Ethnobotany
DATE: 1996
PAGES: all

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

None.