Fundamentals of Agroecology 11:015:230
(3 credits) Classroom 191B Foran Hall
September to December 2013

JOSEPH R. HECKMAN, Ph.D.
Extension Specialist - Soil Fertility
Cook College, Rutgers University
Department of Plant Biology & Pathology
Rutgers, The State University of NJ
59 Dudley Road - Foran Hall
New Brunswick, NJ  08901-8520
Phone:  (732) 932-9711 ext. 119
Email: heckman@aesop.rutgers.edu
aesop.rutgers.edu/~plantbipath/faculty/heckman/heckman.html

Course Description: The ecological principles and processes that operate in sustainable plant and animal agricultural systems.

Course Objectives: 1) Introduce students to Agroecology 2) To acquaint students with sustainable cultural production practices 3) To examine current issues in agriculture in an ecological context 4) To introduce students to literature relating to Agroecology such that they will be well prepare to continue an independent learning in Agroecology post course.


Field Trips: Attendance on field trips is required. You are encouraged to take notes and photographs to be used to write field trip reports. Field trip USDA-NRCS state office or a farm using sustainable production practices will be arranged.

Course Attendance: Attendance at every class period is required. Missed class time will be reflected in final course grade.

Homework and writing assignments: Food For Thought Essay, homework, and field trip reports must be typed on 8.5 x 11 white paper. Written homework assignments are due on the assigned date. Homework may not be turned in by email to instructor, no exceptions.

Guidelines on essay/oral report. At the end of each chapter in our textbook there is a set of questions called “Food For Thought” Select one question based on your particular area of interest in Agroecology. Write a one or at most two page essay response to the question. Share your “Food For Though” essay by reading it in class and respond to questions or lead a discussion. The Recommended Reading materials may provide useful information.

Extra credit: See a documentary film write essay (5points) about how film relates to Agroecology.

Course Policies and Procedures: Notify instructor if you have any special learning needs. Participation in classroom discussion is welcome and encouraged. The course outline and syllabus may be modified if there are extenuating circumstances.

Academic Integrity: Any documented incident involving academic dishonesty on exams or papers will result in a failing grade for the course and possible dismissal from the university.

Grading:
Quizzes (6 quizzes, 10 points each) = 60 points
Class attendance (7)/participation/discussion (3) = 10 points
Homework is typically short (maximum of one typed page or 300 words) written summaries from directed readings, guest lectures, field trips etc. = cumulative of 10 points.
Food For Thought Essay/Presentation = 10 points. To be arranged.
Final Exam (cumulative take home essay) = 10 points
Total = 100 points

Final grades:
A = 90-100 pts; B = 80-89 pts; C = 70-79 pts; D = 60-69 pts