NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course Canvas site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus.

Course Name: Organic Agriculture Certificate Capstone  
Course Number: AGRI 5XX  
Credits: 3  
Term Offered: Annually in the Spring, beginning in Spring 2019  
Instructors names: Valtcho D. Jeliazkov, Melissa A. Scherr  
Instructor email: valtcho.jeliazkov@oregonstate.edu ; Melissa.Scherr@oregonstate.edu  
Instructor phone: 1-541-737-5877  
Link to instructor bio or website: http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/content/valtcho-jeliazkov-zheljazkov-phd  
Teaching Assistant name and contact info: n.a.

Course Description  
The course is designed as a capstone project for students enrolled in Online Graduate Certificate in Organic Agriculture. The capstone project course is one of the four required courses. Generally, the capstone project is independent study course meant to demonstrate application of the themes and concepts gained during the course of study in the Organic Agriculture Certificate Program. Students should discuss their capstone project with their advisor before enrolling in the course; this course should be taken the final term of certificate completion. Students are expected to create a final presentation of capstone projects for final evaluation.

Prerequisites (recommended):  
xxx 5xx Overview of Organic Food Production; SOIL/CROP 5xx Organic Soil and Crop Management; ANS 5xx Organic Animal Production Systems

About this Course:  
The capstone project is to provide the students with an opportunity to work with the organic community and immerse themselves in real-life issues, to participate in the development of Organic Systems Plans (OSP), and to participate in crafting analyses and solutions for the benefits of the organic growers. The students enrolled into the graduate certificate program will have three options for their capstone project:

1. The student may contact a certified organic farm, certified organic processing facility, or certifying agency (could be the State Department of Agriculture), or institution working on Organic Agriculture in his/her or neighboring state to explore opportunity for visiting them and developing a capstone project;  
2. The program at OSU will provide pre-selected farms in Oregon and neighboring states in the region. The program coordinator and participants will establish prior contact with certified organic farms and see which ones would be willing to work with the students and facilitate the development of the student’s capstone projects.  
3. If neither of the first two options are feasible for the student, then the Program staff and faculty will work with the student to develop his/her capstone project.

Capstone manuscripts that will be deposited at OSU Library ScholarsArchive@OSU
Supervision
Students will identify a “Project Mentor” on-site who will evaluate the student’s performance and communicate with the Capstone instructor as the project progresses. This person may be an employer, professor, extension agent, working professional, or be staff/faculty at another institution (list is not exhaustive – discuss other options with the course instructor). Information will be provided to the Project Mentor detailing their responsibility.

Communication
Students enrolled in Capstone/working on Capstone projects should maintain open communication with both their capstone mentor (on-site supervisor) and the Capstone Instructor. The student should present their idea for approval by both parties before beginning their capstone project, and remain in contact as project progresses.

Evaluation of Capstone Project
The project will be completed in steps with guidance and feedback from the Project Mentor and the course instructor. Final presentation of capstone projects can be offered in a variety of communication formats: printed paper, power-point presentation, podcast, webinar, documentary, etc. (audio/visual projects require submission of a written script). The project will be evaluated and graded by the Project Mentor and the course instructor.

Course Credits
This course combines approximately 90 hours of online activities and assignments for 3 credits.

Technical Assistance
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

Learning Resources
Reader compiled from current publications, no need for a text book.

Canvas
This course will be delivered via Canvas where you will interact with your instructor. Within the course Canvas site you will access the learning materials, such as the syllabus, assignments, projects, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ecampus Course Demo. For technical assistance, please visit Ecampus Technical Help.

Mesurable Student Learning Outcomes:
Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in the area of Organic Food Production. Specifically, the students will be able to:
- Conduct research or review of the published research and develop extension or research presentation or publication
- Synthesize available data and information with practical interpretation for organic production
- Communicate clearly and effectively with stakeholders, growers, and other professionals in their field
- Apply the principles of Organic Agriculture production effectively with demonstrable results
- Disseminate scientific research and information to both general and scientific audiences
Evaluation of Student Performance

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Students Complete Project Proposal</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>End of Week 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Annotated Bibliography/Lit Review</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>End of Week 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Project Outline</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>End of Week 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Draft #1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>End of Week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Draft #2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>End of Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Final Draft</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>End of Week 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mentor Evaluation</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a graded class. Grades will not be rounded or curved.

A = >92%  
A- = 90% minimum  
B+ = 87% minimum  
B = 83% minimum  
B- = 80% minimum  
C+ = 77% minimum  
C = 73% minimum  
C- = 70% minimum  
D+ = 67% minimum  
D = 63% minimum  
D- = 60% minimum  
F = <60%

Textbook(s) and Readings: Readings will be based on recent research and publications, no textbook is required.

Course Policies

Incompletes
Incomplete (I) grades will be granted only in emergency cases (usually only for a death in the family, major illness or injury, or birth of your child), and if the student has turned in 80% of the points possible (in other words, usually everything but the final paper). If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please don’t wait until the end of the term; let me know right away.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities
Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at http://ds.oregonstate.edu. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Accessibility of Course Materials
All materials used in this course are accessible. If you require accommodations please contact Disability Access Services (DAS).
Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this course is offered, provides a vendor statement certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

Expectations for Student Conduct
Student conduct is governed by the university’s policies, as explained in the Student Conduct Code.
**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. For further information, visit [Student Conduct and Community Standards](#), or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

OAR 576-015-0020 (2) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty:

a) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another.

b) It includes:

   i) CHEATING - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids, or an act of deceit by which a Student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment, using prohibited materials and texts, any misuse of an electronic device, or using any deceptive means to gain academic credit.

   ii) FABRICATION - falsification or invention of any information including but not limited to falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.

   iii) ASSISTING - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else by any means, including misuse of an electronic device. It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an educational assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).

   iv) TAMPERING - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments or documents.

   v) PLAGIARISM - representing the words or ideas of another person or presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own, or using one's own previously submitted work. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own.

c) Academic Dishonesty cases are handled initially by the academic units, following the process outlined in the University's Academic Dishonesty Report Form, and will also be referred to SCCS for action under these rules.

**Conduct in this Online Classroom**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the [university's regulations regarding civility](#).

**Tutoring**

[NetTutor](#) is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your Canvas class by clicking on the Tools button in your course menu.

**OSU Student Evaluation of Teaching**

Course evaluation results are extremely important and are used to help me improve this course and the learning experience of future students. Results from the 19 multiple choice questions are tabulated.
anonymously and go directly to instructors and department heads. Student comments on the open-ended questions are compiled and confidentially forwarded to each instructor, per OSU procedures. The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. You will log in to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.