Organic Food Production 2  
HORT 162AB  
Cabrillo College Horticulture

**Instructor:** Doug O’Brien  
Email: doobrien@cabrillo.edu (best choice)  
Phone: 831.474-3700 ext 1389 (rarely check messages)  
Webpage: www.cabrillo.edu/~dobrien  
Office hours: Saturday 8:00-8:30 am, Rm 5010

**Course Description:** A practical and observational investigation of the principles and practices of good-management farming and marketing, with the focus on organic. Emphasis is on summertime, commercial scale, local area, vegetable and fruit crops. The scientific, economic and social basis for good-management practices will be emphasized. The instruction is mostly practical activities at the on-site farm field and greenhouses, and field trips to area farms and business. The course is designed primarily for students planning a management career in organic businesses, horticulture or farming.

**Textbook:** None. We will use web resources instead.

**Main web resources:**

1) ATTRA. [attra.ncat.org](http://attra.ncat.org) Print the articles online or read the articles online and request free hard copies directly from ATTRA (takes several weeks to arrive).


Students are required to print some chapters online and bring them to classes.


**Supplies:** A binder for handouts, 3-hole punched paper and a clipboard for field trips and farm field observations.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1) Demonstrated knowledge of commercial organic production systems, particularly the practical, regulatory and business aspects.

2) Demonstrated knowledge of principles and skills, providing the background to adapt to new information, regulations and markets.
The course will cover the following topics:

Principles of good farm management; the National Organic Program and organic certification; soil properties, health and management; ecological theory and organic pest management; summertime management of crops at the farm and greenhouse, including certification, crop planning, soil, irrigation, propagation, crop scouting, problem solving, crop rotation, harvesting and marketing; major crops of the Monterey Bay area.

Class Organization:

Lecture and lab: Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 2:50 p.m. Room 5010. Lunch break for 35 minutes. Class meets June 20 and 27; July 11, 18 and 25; and Aug 1. No class on July 4th.

Required lecture reading is from ATTRA articles and CASFS chapters. Students must complete the reading for each session in advance (see schedule, below).

Several extra-mural field trips are included in the course schedule. Students must plan to arrive on time for carpooling to field trip sites and to attend lectures. Most of the field trips will require a written summary for grade credit. Notes should be taken during instruction in the Cabrillo farm field, and at all field trips and lectures; concepts and information will be included as the basis for exam questions.

A comprehensive final exam (Aug 1) is required. Exam questions will be based on lectures, reading assignments and field trip and lab notes. Examples and depth of understanding for exam questions can be gained through review of assigned readings and lecture/field trip/lab notes.

Requisites: None

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 100, READ 100, and MATH 154.

Class management: Attendance is required for all class meetings. Students will be dropped from the course or receive a NC grade after two absences. No smoking during the labs, even if they take place outside. Students must come to class in appropriate clothing to work in mud with tools. No one is allowed in the field without closed toe shoes. Lectures always start at Cabrillo. Labs that are field trips begin at the designated field trip location. Be on time. Attendance will be taken at the beginning and the end of the day – you must attend the entire class for attendance credit.

Field trip reports are due the week after the field trip.

Grading: Cabrillo College uses whole grades, A, B, C, D, F and W. A Credit/No Credit option is also available. Students who must miss too many classes or who need to stop coming to class have the responsibility to officially withdraw. The instructor can also officially withdraw students from class if the student has missed too many classes. There are specific dates that students should know (listed below). If a student wants a “Credit” grade instead of a letter he/she must notify the instructor. A “credit” (CR) grade will be given to those wanting one if a “C” or better is obtained in the course and the student has participated in all class activities. A student may not apply more than 12 units of CR/NC courses toward fulfillment of the requirements for the A.A. or A.S. degrees.
Grade for this class will come from a combination of:

- 1.5 hour-long final exam 100 points
- Field trip reports (4, each 25 points) 100 points

Students with a total of 90% of the possible total or will receive an A, 80% or higher a B, 70% or higher a C, 60% or higher a D, and less than 60%, an F.

Missed Exams and Homework Dates:

Students are allowed to make-up a lecture exam only under the following conditions. 1) Instructor is notified by the day of the exam that student will not be attending. Use email (best) or phone. 2) Student must take the exam before it is turned back to the class. Failure to do either will forfeit the student’s opportunity to take the exam. Instructor **will not** accept late field trip reports.

Significant dates for Summer 2009:

- Last day to add: June 26. Last day to drop with a refund: June 20.
- Last day to withdraw at all: July 18

Student Accommodations I encourage students with disabilities, including “invisible” disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning and psychological disabilities, to let me know of their needs and appropriate accommodations. Please bring verification of your disability from the Learning Skills Office (Room 1073 in the Learning Resources Center – for learning challenges) or the Disabled Student Program and Services (DSPS) office (Room 810 – for physical and mental challenges) and/or a counselor or specialist’s recommendations for accommodating your needs.

Please observe the following rules: Please do not bring pets to class, dogs are not allowed on campus. Anyone not registered for the class is not allowed to attend classes. Please respect others in the class, come on time and do not carry on private conversations while others are talking. Failure to abide by these and other socially accepted behavior will result in oral and or written notification, removal from the class for a short period of time or withdrawal from the class.

Class Schedule


June 27: **Farm field** (Strawberry pick, farm maintenance, compost turning, farm observations). **Field trip** to Blue Moon, Fogline or Free wheelin’ farm. **Classroom:** Good farm management and the law, organic certification. The principles of good farm management.
July 11: Farm field (Strawberry & celery pick, farm maintenance, compost turning, alfalfa mow, farm observations). Field trip to UCSC Farm. Tractors, tillage, compost, weed control, orchards, CSA and roadside stand marketing.

July 18: Farm field (Strawberry & tomato pick, farm maintenance, compost turning, farm observations). Propagation: leeks. Field trips to Cabrillo Farmer’s market and AJ’s. Classroom: soil.

July 25: Farm field (Strawberry, tomato, salad pick, farm maintenance, compost turning, alfalfa mow, farm observations). Guest: Mike Wille (Culinary Arts- selling to restaurants). ROP video shoot. Field trip to Phil Foster Ranches: warm climate fruits and vegetables, composting, cooling and shipping.

Aug 1: Farm field (Strawberry pick, tomato, salad pick, farm maintenance, compost turning, farm observations, till in cover crop on block 1d. Gypsum and compost on Block 1d. List beds). Final exam.

**Required Class reading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date to be completed</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>CASFS: 1.1/p9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>ATTRA: Overview of organic crop production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>ATTRA: Organic farm certification and the National Organic Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>ATTRA: Sustainable soil management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>ATTRA: Soil management and the National Organic Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>CASFS: 2.1/p9-23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>