



Ohio State HCS News

HORTICULTURE & CROP SCIENCE IN VIRTUAL PERSPECTIVE - THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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History of Agriculture Added to Curriculum

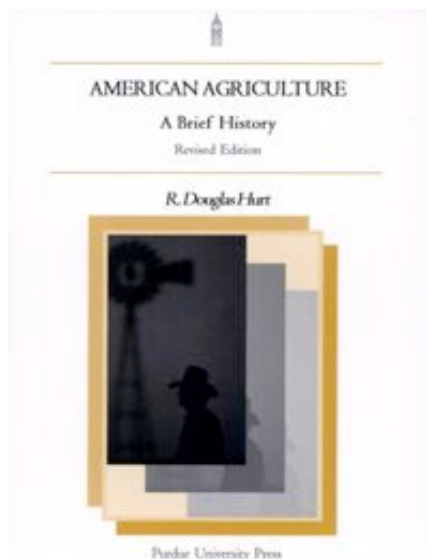


Horticulture & Crop Science Professor Steve St. Martin has developed a new history of plant agriculture course.

The Ohio State University unveils a history of plant agriculture course in Spring Quarter 2007. "Feeding Ourselves and the World: A History of Plant Agriculture in the U.S." is a new offering from the Horticulture & Crop Science Department (H&CS).

Developed by professor **Steve St. Martin**, the course promises to explore the origins of agriculture, agriculture's impact on the environment, economic and social impact, agricultural history of the U.S. and Ohio, technological developments, technology transfer, and visions for the future.

"No other course at OSU looks at the history of agriculture. The course is a "humanistic inquiry" into agriculture as a human activity," explains Dr. St. Martin. "We'll look at plant production from the viewpoint of social and technological changes. Among the topics are how and why plant agriculture began. What was native American agriculture like? What was frontier agriculture like? What 19th and 20th century technological and social developments led to today's agriculture. Along the way we'll study interesting people, such as Johnny Appleseed, Luther Burbank, and John Deere."



Designed for a broad audience of OSU students, H&CS 294 (Call# 21351-4) is a 5 credit elective that has no prerequisites. Students will learn how to articulate and critically evaluate ideas and developments in plant-based agriculture, based on an understanding of historical themes. Specific topics students will investigate include: ownership of land, philosophies of agriculture and the history of the land-grant university and extension. **Douglas Hurt's *American Agriculture: a brief history*** will provide much of the reading in the course which features three forty-eight minutes lectures and two recitation sections per week. Case studies will be highlighted during the recitation periods.

"I'd like to see a mix of Agriculture and Arts and

Sciences students enroll in this class. I hope the course will encourage main campus students to investigate the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences courses, majors and minors." St. Martin's goal for the course is approval as a GEC history course in the near future. The GEC designation would allow any student on campus to fulfill a history requirement by taking this course.

Interested students are invited to view the [H&CS 294 Course Syllabus](#) or contact Professor St. Martin via e-mail st-martin.1@osu.edu or phone at 292-8499.

Story, photos and web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#).
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