AGRI11008 *Introduction to Agricultural Systems*
Term 1 - 2022

Profile information current as at 12/10/2024 04:38 pm

All details in this unit profile for AGRI11008 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student).The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview
This unit will introduce you to agricultural production systems, historical agricultural production methods including Indigenous agriculture, and the development of modern agricultural systems. You will learn the characteristics of important livestock, cropping and horticultural industries in Australia and discuss the economic, social and environmental sustainability of these systems. You will enhance your understanding of the pressure placed on the physical and biological resources upon which agricultural production depends. You will examine the impact of agricultural practices on the economics of primary production and on the environmental and social fabric of rural and urban communities. You will also explore the concept of agricultural production systems as managed ecosystems, and analyse the principles of ecosystems in natural and managed systems.

Details
Career Level: *Undergraduate*
Unit Level: *Level 1*
Credit Points: *6*
Student Contribution Band: *7*
Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: *0.125*

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites
There are no requisites for this unit.
Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2022

- Bundaberg
- Emerald
- Online
- Rockhampton

Attendance Requirements
All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website
This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

Regional Campuses
Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

Metropolitan Campuses
Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Group Discussion**
Weighting: 10%
2. **Group Work**
Weighting: 40%
3. **Written Assessment**
Weighting: 50%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the University's Grades and Results Policy for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the CQUniversity Policy site.
You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the CQUniversity Policy site.

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from SUTE

Feedback

The range of topics addressed in this unit and the engagement of (guest)lecturers was well received.

Recommendation

Continue the range of topics addressed in this unit and include guest lectures in the future.

Feedback from Self-reflection

Feedback

Attendance numbers in live lectures and tutorials were very low.

Recommendation

Offer a combination of live and pre-recorded lectures and tutorial activities to meet student preferences and to allow for greater learning flexibility.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Describe major agriculture production systems in Australia
2. Explain the factors that have led to changes in agricultural production systems throughout history
3. Explore the impact of key changes in the development of modern farming practices on the ecology of natural and agricultural systems
4. Identify the concepts of social, economic and environmental sustainability in agricultural production
5. Develop and review agricultural management strategies to address natural resource issues.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

— N/A Level | • Introductory Level | • Intermediate Level | • Graduate Level | ◦ Professional Level | ◦ Advanced Level

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Group Discussion - 10%	•	•			
2 - Group Work - 40%		•	•	•	
3 - Written Assessment - 50%			•	•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Communication	•	•	•	•	•
2 - Problem Solving					•
3 - Critical Thinking			•		•
4 - Information Literacy	•	•	•	•	•
5 - Team Work	•	•	•		
6 - Information Technology Competence		•	•	•	•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence				•	
8 - Ethical practice			•	•	
9 - Social Innovation				•	•
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures					

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Group Discussion - 10%	•		•	•	•					
2 - Group Work - 40%	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	
3 - Written Assessment - 50%	•		•	•		•		•	•	

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Zoom

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: Harvard (author-date)
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Richard Koech Unit Coordinator
r.koech@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 07 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction to Agricultural Systems	Reading and other supporting materials will be provided on the Moodle site under eReading list each week.	

Week 2 - 14 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The History of Agriculture		

Week 3 - 21 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Farming Systems and Styles		

Week 4 - 28 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Plant Production Systems		**Changes to Agricultural Production Systems** Due: Week 4 Friday (1 Apr 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 5 - 04 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Livestock Production Systems		

Vacation Week - 11 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Week 6 - 18 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Natural and Agricultural Ecosystems		

Week 7 - 25 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Sustainable Agriculture		

Week 8 - 02 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Agricultural Technology		**Trends in Land Use Patterns and Impacts on Natural and Agricultural Systems** Due: Week 8 Friday (6 May 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 9 - 09 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Current Challenges in Agriculture		
Week 10 - 16 May 2022		
Module/Topic	**Chapter**	**Events and Submissions/Topic**
Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies		
Week 11 - 23 May 2022		
Module/Topic	**Chapter**	**Events and Submissions/Topic**
Communities		
Week 12 - 30 May 2022		
Module/Topic	**Chapter**	**Events and Submissions/Topic**
Integration of Concepts and Revision		
Review/Exam Week - 06 Jun 2022		
Module/Topic	**Chapter**	**Events and Submissions/Topic**
		Mitigating Agricultural Challenges Due: Review/Exam Week Monday (6 June 2022) 11:45 pm AEST
Exam Week - 13 Jun 2022		
Module/Topic	**Chapter**	**Events and Submissions/Topic**

Assessment Tasks

1 Changes to Agricultural Production Systems

Assessment Type
Group Discussion

Task Description
This assessment will require you to participate in online group discussions during Weeks 1 to 4 of term. The discussions will focus on the major changes that have occurred in agricultural production systems in Australia in the last several decades and the key factors that have caused these changes. A Discussion Board will be set up in Moodle for this task.

The Unit Coordinator will post the weekly discussion topic or query on the Discussion Board on Monday of each week. You are then required to contribute to the discussion by Friday of each week. Ensure that you express your views succinctly (in 200 - 400 words). Each student is required to make a minimum of three posts on the Discussion Board over the four-week period.

Assessment Due Date
Week 4 Friday (1 Apr 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Vacation Week Friday (15 Apr 2022)

Weighting
10%

Assessment Criteria

- A minimum of three posts on the Moodle Discussion Board
- Each post is 200-400 words long
- Discussion is relevant to the query asked or weekly topic of discussion
- Your discussion displays a good understanding of the changes that have occurred in the Australian agriculture and the factors that have caused them

Further details and the marking rubric will be available on the Moodle page.

Referencing Style

- Harvard (author-date)

Submission
Online

assessmentOutcome

- Describe major agriculture production systems in Australia
- Explain the factors that have led to changes in agricultural production systems throughout history

assessmentGradAttribute

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Team Work

2 Trends in Land Use Patterns and Impacts on Natural and Agricultural Systems

Assessment Type
Group Work

Task Description
Part A: Group Report (30%) [1500±10% words] - *Group Work*

This is the group component of the task. You will write the report as a group. Each student is required to submit a copy of the Group Report via Moodle.

In this Group Assessment, you will analyse the trends in the land use patterns of Australian farms and discuss their impacts on the ecology of the natural systems and the environmental sustainability of agricultural systems. You will form small groups of between 3 and 5 members to undertake this assessment. You will be provided with some agricultural statistics from the **Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)** focusing on agricultural farms and land use patterns. Within your groups, you will:

- Perform basic analysis of the data and present the results using appropriate graphs
- Based on the data provided and other sources (e.g. lectures/tutorials, websites and published articles and reports), discuss the trends in agricultural farms and land use patterns in relation to their impacts on the ecology of natural agricultural systems and the environmental sustainability of agricultural systems.
- Prepare a group report of about 1500±10% words

You may structure your report as follows:

- Title
- Introduction – *Briefly explain the focus of your report and the major agricultural production systems in Australia*.
- Method – *Explain the data provided and how they were analysed*.
- Results – *Present the results in graphs and describe any trends that can be observed*.
- Discussion – *Interpret the results and explain their potential impacts on the ecology of natural agricultural systems and the environmental sustainability of agricultural systems. [Here you will incorporate information and data from other sources e.g. lectures/tutorials, published articles and technical reports].*
- Conclusion
- References – *List any references used to write your report (minimum of 5 relevant references)*.

Note: *Students will undertake a self and peer assessment to assess the contribution made by each group member towards the completion of this task. The 30% weighting attached to Part A of the task will be distributed as follows: Group Report 25%, Self and Peer Assessment 5%. The Self and Peer Assessment form will be made available in Moodle. Each student is required to submit the group report and the completed Self and Peer Assessment form in Moodle.*

Part B: - Poster (10%) - *Individual Component*

This is the individual component of the task. You will submit your own work.

Using a poster, summarise and present the key findings contained in the Group Report described in Part A above. The poster should be one page long and should be submitted in an appropriate format (e.g. Word, pdf).

Assessment Due Date
Week 8 Friday (6 May 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 10 Friday (20 May 2022)

Weighting
40%

Minimum mark or grade
50%

Assessment Criteria
Part A will be assessed on:

- Ability to work effectively in a group setting
- Ability to correctly analyse, present and interpret data
- Knowledge of different farming systems and styles and sustainability concepts
- Knowledge of the impacts of key changes in the development of modern farming practices on the ecology of natural and agricultural systems
- Ability to draw information from scientific literature
- Professional presentation of the report including referencing, grammar/spelling and appropriate number of words (1500±10%)

Part B will be assessed on:

- Content
- Structure and layout of the poster
- Grammar/spelling

Further details including the assessment data and the marking rubric will be available on the Moodle page

Referencing Style

- Harvard (author-date)

Submission
Online

assessmentOutcome

- Explain the factors that have led to changes in agricultural production systems throughout history
- Explore the impact of key changes in the development of modern farming practices on the ecology of natural and agricultural systems
- Identify the concepts of social, economic and environmental sustainability in agricultural production

assessmentGradAttribute

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Team Work
- Information Technology Competence
- Ethical practice
- Social Innovation

3 Mitigating Agricultural Challenges

Assessment Type
Written Assessment

Task Description
In this assessment, you will describe an agricultural farm you are familiar with, production system or industry and identify and analyse one key challenge it is facing currently. You will then propose and evaluate potential strategies for mitigation of this challenge taking into account ecological, economic and social considerations.

Your report will be based on scientific evidence and relevant publications must be referenced. Your written assignment will have 2000 (±10%) words with the following structure:

- Title (not included in the word count)
- Abstract (a maximum of 200 words)
- Introduction of the agricultural farm/production system/industry (about 500 words)
- Outline of the current challenge the agricultural farm/production system/industry is facing (about 600 words)
- Strategy for mitigation (about 600 words)
- Conclusion (abut 100 words)
- References (not included in the word count) – *minimum of 10 relevant references are required*.

Assessment Due Date
Review/Exam Week Monday (6 June 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Assessments shall be returned within 10 working days after the due date.

Weighting
50%

Minimum mark or grade
50%

Assessment Criteria

- Coherent and concise abstract covering all essential elements of the report while keeping to the word limit
- Knowledge of the selected farm, production system or industry
- Knowledge of the current major challenge facing the selected farm, production system or industry
- Knowledge of mitigation concepts
- Ability to contextualise information used in the report
- Ability to draw information from provided scientific literature
- Professional presentation including correct referencing and keeping to word limit

Referencing Style

- Harvard (author-date)

Submission
Online

assessmentOutcome

- Explore the impact of key changes in the development of modern farming practices on the ecology of natural and agricultural systems
- Identify the concepts of social, economic and environmental sustainability in agricultural production
- Develop and review agricultural management strategies to address natural resource issues.

assessmentGradAttribute

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Ethical practice
- Social Innovation

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the **Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure**. This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?
A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?
A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?
For academic advice and guidance, the Academic Learning Centre (ALC) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?

Be Honest
If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own

Seek Help
If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)

Produce Original Work
Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem