



First Announcement

**“Plants, Ecosystems and Climate Change”
Winter 2010**

Coordinating Professor: Dr. Donald Smith,
Department of Plant Science, McGill University
Donald.Smith@mcgill.ca

Course Outline: This course provides students with an overview of the factors leading to climate change and likely outcomes, the possible effects on plants, and the potential role of plants in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. The centre piece of the course is a project conducted by each student. These projects may be used to develop outreach material for the network (web pages, etc.). The course consists of 11 weekly one hour sessions, which will include approx 30 minute presentations by experts on relevant topics, followed by presentations from participating students. The 2009 schedule is provided as an example; the 2010 course schedule will be available soon as lecturers are confirmed. Weekly sessions begin at 3:30 pm EST unless otherwise indicated, and participants should sign on at least 5 minutes in advance in order for the session to begin on time. All sessions will be conducted through videoconferencing technology to all parts of the Green Crop Network (GCN), across Canada, and possibly to collaborating organizations around the world. Each year, participants have an opportunity to meet with each other and the wider GCN network during its annual general meeting (AGM). This year the GCN AGM will be held Dec 10th-11th 2009 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (www.greencropnetwork.ca)

Course schedule: First class will be Wednesday January 13th 2010

Classes each Wednesday between 3:30 and 4:30 pm EST (Montreal time). This allows students in the west e.g. British Columbia (PST) to come in at 12:30pm and those in the east .g. Nova Scotia at 4:30 pm (AST).

Videoconferencing testing sessions will take place on Wednesday January 6th 2010 at 3:30pm (EST) and Monday January 11th at 1:00pm (EST).

Evaluation: The course will be at the graduate level (500 and above at McGill) and be worth 3 credits. The marking system will be as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Presentations | 30% |
| Written paper | 30% |
| Exam | 30% |
| Participation | 10% |

The subject of student presentations must be well developed such that it could be possibly developed into material for a web page (more graphics intensive) and for teaching in a high school setting (more simplified). The best of the written papers, which should be written in the format of a review paper, may be submitted for publication. There will also be a final exam, based on both the lectures from experts and the various graduate student presentations.

Registration: Send an email entitled GCN Climate Change Course indicating your name, supervisor, affiliation, and your interest to register for this course to info@greencropnetwork.com

For More Information

Green Crop Strategic Research Network
Plant Science Department, McGill University, Macdonald Campus
21111 Lakeshore Road, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, Canada, H9X 3V9
Phone: 514 398 7861 Fax: 514 398 7897 Email: info@greencropnetwork.com
www.greencropnetwork.com



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For Information Purposes ONLY

**“Plants, Ecosystems and Climate Change”
Winter 2009 Schedule**

Please note that this schedule may be modified. Presenters and synopsis are subject to change depending on lecturer availability and course discussion may lead to further modification to best respond to student needs.

| Week | Lec | Date/Time | Presenter(s) | Presentation Topic |
|-------------|------------|------------------|---|--|
| 1 | | January 7 | | Videoconferencing technology testing session |
| 2 | | January 13 | | Videoconferencing technology testing session |
| 2 | 1 | January 14 | Donald Smith, McGill University | Organizational Session: Introduction of students and their areas of interest |
| 3 | 2 | January 21 | Donald Smith, McGill University | Crops Management and Climate Change Mitigation Potential |
| 4 | 3 | January 28 | Joann Whalen, McGill University | Role of Livestock in Maintaining Soil Organic Matter |
| 5 | 4 | February 4 | Kevin Vessey, Saint Mary's University | Building Better Biofuel Feedstocks |
| 6 | 5 | February 11 | Steve Siciliano, University of Saskatchewan | Processes And Controls on Nitrous Oxide (N ₂ O) Emissions from Agricultural Soils |
| 7 | 6 | February 18 | David Burton, Nova Scotia Agricultural College | Agricultural Adaptation to Climate Change |
| 8 | | February 25 | | Reading Week, No Lecture |
| 9 | 7 | March 4 | Sharon Shoemaker California Institute of Food and Agricultural Research, University of California, | Biorefineries |
| 10 | 8 | March 11 | Emily Heaton, Iowa State University | Practical Considerations in Development of Bioenergy |
| 11 | 9 | March 18 | Bert Drake, Smithsonian Environmental Research Institute | Plants, Ecosystems, and Rising CO ₂ |
| 12 | 10 | March 25 | NA | NA |
| 13 | 11 | April 1 | Brian Ellis, University of British Columbia | Molecular Techniques in Plant Composition |
| 14, 15, 16 | | April 8, 15, 22 | Graduate Student presentations | |