

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 5116S
Date of Senate Approval 2/11/16

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 41: **Revise the description of ENVR 381;
Add new course, ENVR 358, Agriculture**

Effective Date: Fall 2016

1. Add: On page 145, new course, **ENVR 358, Agriculture:**

358 Agriculture (4)

A review of agriculture production systems and their environmental consequences, ranging from highly intensive industrial food production to more sustainable approaches, including organic agriculture, agroecology, biodynamic agriculture, and permaculture. Course includes field trips to local farms. Students will plant and maintain a Fall garden. Odd years Fall.

Impact Statement: Advanced elective course with no required prerequisites. This course will satisfy four of the required 18 hours of Ecology and Biology electives for ENVR majors in the Ecology and Environmental Biology concentration. It will also satisfy elective requirements for a minor in Environmental Studies. No concurrences are required. The addition of ENVR 358 will have minimal additional resource implications as this course has been offered twice as a special topics course in Environmental Studies. Content of the course does require access to campus gardens and field trips to local farms. The course is offered in rotation with ENVR 341 (Wetland Ecology) every other fall semester, and is offered with existing faculty expertise.

Rationale: This course is designed to review agriculture production systems and their environmental consequences, ranging from highly intensive industrial food production to more sustainable approaches, including organic agriculture, agroecology, biodynamic agriculture, and permaculture. The local food movement provides many opportunities to explore alternative methods to industrial agriculture. The campus gardens provide an excellent teaching laboratory for food production. Students have responded favorably to course content and demand for the course is high. Agriculture is taught with a focus on sustainable agriculture practices which directly links to our student learning outcome of sustainability and to the University Mission Statement to incorporate environmental sustainability in the curriculum. Agriculture also fits well in the broader context of food studies on campus.

2. Delete: On page 141 under **Concentration in Ecology and Environmental Biology:**

18 hours of Ecology and Biology electives chosen from BIOL 210 or 211 (whichever is not selected above), 320, 322, 323, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 340, 350, 351, 356, 357, 360, 442; or ENVR 312, 322, 323, 341, 343, 346, 347, 348, 360, 364, 390, 396.

Add: On page 141, in place of deleted entry:

18 hours of Ecology and Biology electives chosen from BIOL 210 or 211 (whichever is not selected above), 320, 322, 323, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 340, 350, 351, 356, 357, 360, 442; or ENVR 312, 322, 323, 341, 343, 346, 347, 348, **358**, 360, 364, 390, 396.

Impact Statement: ENVR 358 provides another option for students to complete the concentration requirements.

Rationale: Course content is focused on sustainable agriculture which emphasizes an ecological approach to food production.