

## Syllabus

### CPSC 117: Agriculture and Science of Coffee

3 credit hours  
Spring 2021

#### Course description

The growth and production of coffee and its impact on society and culture. The botanical aspects of coffee, coffee varieties/cultivars, and technologies for coffee growth, harvesting, post-harvest processing, and roasting will be discussed. The wide variety of coffee beverages, coffee flavor evaluation, coffee chemistry, coffee economics, and the physiological effects of coffee will also be examined

#### Meeting times

Lectures (Zoom): 10.00 – 10.50a Mon-Wed-Fri  
Office hours (Zoom): Fri 11.00-11.50 Fri or by appointment

#### Instructor

Dr. Andrew Margenot  
Office: S-324 Turner Hall  
Email: [margenot@illinois.edu](mailto:margenot@illinois.edu)

#### Teaching Assistant

Heidi Allen  
Email: [heidia@illinois.edu](mailto:heidia@illinois.edu)  
Questions on course material, logistics, due dates, etc should first be directed to the TA. Emails should be addressed with subject line: [CPSC 117]

#### Course website

The course website is located on the University of Illinois Compass 2g system: <https://compass2g.illinois.edu>  
Log in using your University of Illinois net ID and password. Course materials will be uploaded on this website, notably (1) readings, (2) lecture pdfs, and (3) exams (live online). This class is **synchronous** and therefore there will not be video recordings.

#### Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course (plus, the textbook industry is a racket). Readings from selected books will be provided online as pdf files.

However, I recommend the following as reference texts and/or further reading. Many of these have beautiful illustrations and interesting side notes.

1. World Coffee Atlas | James Hoffmann
2. The New Rules of Coffee | Jordan Michaelman & Zachary Carlsen
3. Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World | Mark Pendergrast

Websites to keep track of:

1. Sprudge: Coffee News & Culture: <https://sprudge.com/>
2. Perfect Daily Grind: <https://perfectdailygrind.com/>
3. The (now defunct) column [Ristretto](#) in *The New York Times* by food writer Oliver Strand

### Grading

This course has five graded evaluations.

Evaluation	Topic	% of total
Midterm 1	Part I: The plant	30
Midterm 2	Part II: Production	30
Final exam 3	Part III: Making the cup	30
Case study paper		10
Total		100

### Schedule

Note: the University has mandated “break” days this semester: “Non-instructional day should be left entirely free of any mandatory course obligations.”

<https://registrar.illinois.edu/academic-calendars/spring-academic-calendar-21/>

Two of these break days fall on what would otherwise be a class meeting day (**Feb 17** and **Mar 24**), so we will not be meeting on these two days as a result.

Week	Dates (M-W-F)	Topic	Reading/ Evaluation
<b>Part I: The plant</b>			
1	Jan 25, 27, 29	Intro: what is coffee?	
2	Feb 1, 3, 5	The coffee plant	
3	Feb 8, 10, 12	Physiology of the coffee fruit and seed	
4	Feb 15, <del>17</del> , 19	Species and distribution	
5	Feb 22, 24, 26	Domestication and breeding	
			Midterm 1
<b>Part II: Production</b>			
6	Mar 1, 3, 5	The coffee supply chain	
7	Mar 8, 10, 12	Soils & Fertilization	
8	Mar 15, 17, 19	Pests & Pathogens	
9	Mar 22, <del>24</del> , 26	Climate Change	
10	Mar 29, 31, Apr 2	Harvest and post-processing	
			Midterm 2
<b>Part III: Making the cup</b>			
11	April 5, 7, 9	Roasting & Brewing	
12	April 12, 14, 16	Sensory evaluation & grading	
13	April 19, 21, 23	Economics, trade, and specialty markets	
14	April 26, 28, 30	Socioeconomics	
15	May 3, 5 (last day)	Organization and certifications	
	May 7-14 (date TBD by Registrar’s Office)		Final Exam

## Campus Policies

### *Academic Integrity*

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Code should also be considered as a part of this syllabus. Students should pay particular attention to Article 1, Part 4: Academic Integrity. Read the Code at the following URL: <http://studentcode.illinois.edu/>

Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade. Every student is expected to review and abide by the Academic Integrity Policy: <http://studentcode.illinois.edu/>. Ignorance is not an excuse for any academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read this policy to avoid any misunderstanding. Do not hesitate to ask the instructor(s) if you are ever in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, or any other breach of academic integrity.

### *Students with Disabilities*

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor as soon as possible. To ensure that disability-related concerns are properly addressed from the beginning, students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class should contact Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) and see the instructor as soon as possible. If you need accommodations for any sort of disability, please speak to me after class, or make an appointment to see me, or see me during my office hours. DRES provides students with academic accommodations, access, and support services. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TDD), or e-mail a message to [disability@uiuc.edu](mailto:disability@uiuc.edu). More information is available at <http://www.disability.illinois.edu/>

### *Emergency Response Recommendations*

Emergency response recommendations can be found at the following website:

<http://police.illinois.edu/emergency/>

I encourage you to review this website and the campus building floor plans website within the first 10 days of class. <http://police.illinois.edu/emergency/floorplans/>

### *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)*

Any student who has suppressed their directory information pursuant to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) should self-identify to the instructor to ensure protection of the privacy of their attendance in this course. See <http://registrar.illinois.edu/ferpa> for more information on FERPA.