

Mommouth College
Honors 210 Corn

Week of:	Topic	Readings	Field Trip /Lab
26 Aug	intro., evolutionary history of grasses	M: Ch.1; F: Ch. 1, Manning: The Seed	intro /overview
2 Sept	origins of agriculture	Q: all	Univ. IL Extension Station
9 Sept	Meso & North American Corn Cultures	F: pp. 29-58, 99-132 ; Dodd;	Western IL Univ. Organic Farm
16 Sept	prairie ecology	M: Ch. 2 - 5	Dickson Mounds
23 Sept	farming	F: pp. 59 - 96, 133 -166; M: Ch. 6 -13, Loggsdon, Smil	LeSuer/Spring Grove
30 Sept	genetics & molecular genetics	F, Beadle, Othert, Handouts	Monsanto
7 Oct	molecular genetics	Gellene; Beardsley; Gibbs; Firth, Hopkin	John Deere Pavilion
14 Oct	bioethics & intellectual property	Manning; Genie; Kahn; Anonymous; Brown; Ehrenfeld	Farmland
21 Oct	[Fall Break: no lect.]	F: 166-264	Fall Break: No Lab
28 Oct	commodification; Midterm Fri 25 Oct	F: 265-278; Cook; Gengross & Slater;	Grocery Store
4 Nov	pest control	Steingraber: Ch. 1 & 7	Computer Simulations
11 Nov	biodiversity	Manning: In Wildness; Eisenberg; Bray; Plunknett & Winkelmann	TBA
18 Nov	government, ag., & consequences	Manning; Subsidies; Schlosser 2001 & 2002; Critser; Shell;	TBA
25 Nov	images	TBA; Pollan Ch. 1 & 2	Putnam Museum
2 Dec	summary, final thoughts	Pollan Ch. 3 & 4	Final Projects
9 Dec	Final Exam: 11 Dec. @ 6 pm		

Required Texts (available at the bookstore):

F = Betty Fussell. 1992. *The Story of Corn*. North Point Press. New York. 368 pp.

M = Richard Manning. 1995. *Grassland: The History, Biology, Politics, and Promise of the American Prairie*. Penguin Books. New York.

P = Michael Pollan. 2001. *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World*. Random House.

Q = Daniel Quinn. 1995. *Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit*. Bantam Books.

Articles (photocopies or web links will be supplied by the instructor):

Anonymous. 2002. The top 5 patents on life. *The Ecologist* 32(9). p. 14.

George W. Beadle. 1980. The Ancestry of Corn. *Scientific American* 242(1):112-119.

Tim Beardsley. 1999. To boldly grow. *Scientific American*. October. pp. 48-49.

Francesca Bray. 1994. Agriculture for developing nations. *Scientific American*. July. pp. 30-37.

Kathryn Brown. 2001. Seeds of concern. *Scientific American*. April. pp. 51-57.

Christopher Cook. 1999. Fowl Trouble: In the nation's poultry plants, brutality to worker as well as bird. *Harper's Magazine*. August. pp. 78-79.

Greg Critser. 2002. A Corn-Fed Farm Policy. *Los Angeles Times*. 2 June 2002. M1-3.

Catherine Dodd. 1997. *The Corn War*. Discover. December.

David Ehrenfeld. 2002. *The Cow Tipping Point*. Harper's Magazine. October. pp. 13-19.

Evan Eisenberg. 1989. Back to Eden. *Atlantic Monthly*. pp. 57-89.

Peta Firth. 1999. Consuming fears. *Scientific American*. January. pp. 41-43.

Danise Gellene. 2002. *Antibody Creation on Corn Patented*. *Los Angeles Times*. 10 July 2002.

Tillman U. Gengross & Steven C. Slater. 2000. How green are green plastics? *Scientific American*. August. pp. 36-41.

W Wayt Gibbs. 1997. *Plantbodies*. *Scientific American*. November. p. 44.

Karen Hopkin. 2001. The risks on the table. April. pp. 60-61.

Jamifer Kahn. 1999. The Green Machine: Is Monsanto sowing the seeds of change, or destruction? *Harper's Magazine*. April. pp. 70-71.

Gene Lodgeon 1994. *King Corn in The Contrary Farmer*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company, White River Junction Vermont.

Richard Manning. 2000. *Food's Frontier: The Next Green Revolution*. University of California Press. Berkeley. Excerpts from: *The Seed: The Case for a Second Green Revolution*, In *Wildness is the Preservation of the World: Sustaining Traditional Farming & Genetic Resources [Mexico]*; *The Gene in the Genome: Bioengineering in Context*

Richard Manning. 1996. The sweet smell of subsidies: The grass may be greener in Canada, but U.S. farm policy spreads the green around. *Harper's Magazine*. April. pp. 64-65.

Ayala Othert 1999. *Transposons*. Discover. December. pp. 59-66.

Donald L. Plucknett and Donald L. Winkelmann. 1995. *Technology for sustainable agriculture*. *Scientific American*. September. 182-186.

Eric Schlosser. 2002. *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*. HarperCollins Publishers Perennial. NY, NY. Excerpts from: Chapter 7 "Cogs in the Great Machine" and Chapter 9 "What's in the Meat"

Eric Schlosser. 2001. *The Chain Never Stops*. Mother Jones. July/August.

Ellen Ruppel Shell. 2001. *New World Syndrome: The Atlantic Monthly*. June. pp.??.

Vadav Smil. 1997. *Global population & the nitrogen cycle*. *Scientific American*. July. pp. 76-81.

Sandra Steingraber. 1997. *Living Downstream: A Scientist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment*. Vintage Books. New York. Excerpts from Chapter 1 "Trace Amounts" & Chapter 7 "Earth"