

COURSE OF STUDY *Master degree in Plant Medicine (LM69)*

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

ACADEMIC SUBJECT *Agronomic techniques of organic farming (C.I. Agroecosystem management)*

General information	
Academic subject	<i>Agronomic techniques of organic farming (C.I. Agroecosystem management)</i>
Degree course	<i>Master's degree course in in Plant Medicine (LM69)</i>
Academic Year	2023-2024
European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)	3
Language	Italian
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	September 25, 2023 - January 19, 2024
Attendance	<i>Not mandatory but recommended</i>

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Virtual headquarters	
Tutoring (time and day)	Every day excluding Saturday (by appointment). Tutoring could be also on e-learning platforms.

Syllabus	
Learning Objectives	Give the student training on the agronomic principles and techniques used in organic farming concerning the most important crops widespread in the Mediterranean environment. Particular attention will be paid to problems relating to the maintenance of soil fertility, the protection and enhancement of agricultural biodiversity and the reduction of chemical and energy inputs.
Course prerequisites	General knowledge of agronomy, herbaceous, horticultural and tree crops.
Contents	Definition, principles of Organic Agriculture; history of organic agriculture and different types of sustainable agriculture; Italian and European legislation. Main organic farming techniques: management of soil fertility, organic fertilization, organic matter and humic balance, maintenance of biodiversity, rotations, weed management, irrigation and dry farming; cover crops. Cultivation techniques of the most common crops in the Mediterranean environment.
Books and bibliography	Notes of lectures distributed during the course. Amadei G. (Coordinatore), <i>Agricoltura biologica</i> , Accademia Nazionale di Agricoltura, Bologna, 2002.
Additional materials	

Work schedule	

Total	Lectures	Hands on (Laboratory, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours
Hours			
75	16	14	45
ECTS			
3	2	1	
Teaching strategy		Lectures will be presented through PC assisted tools (Powerpoint, Adobe Acrobat, ect.).	
Expected learning outcomes			
Knowledge and understanding on:		<p><i>Knowledge and understanding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of biological management techniques of the main crops spread in the Mediterranean environment. • Knowledge of the relationship between plant and environment, aimed at the optimal agronomic management of crops with an agro-ecological approach. 	
Applying knowledge and understanding on:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the acquired principles to design environmentally friendly production areas. • give students knowledge and application skills on the management of organic farming companies in relation to the reference regulatory framework and the control and certification system. 	
Soft skills		<p><i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apply the acquired principles to design environmentally friendly production areas. ○ Consolidate the link between environment and crops and protect traditional activities and local economies. <p><i>Making informed judgements and choices</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ability to analyze different situations in farms and planning appropriate actions for organic management of crops. <p><i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Personal skills aimed at communication, multidisciplinary group work and judgmental skills both at technical and human level. <p><i>Capacities to continue learning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The expected learning capacities, in terms of knowledge and skills, are listed in Annex A of the Master Degree Course Regulations (expressed through the European Degree Program descriptions) 	
Assessment and feedback			
Methods of assessment		<p>The exam consists of an oral exam on the topics developed during the hours of lecture and theory and practice in the classroom and in the laboratory / production farms, as reported in the Academic Regulations for the Master Course of Plant Medicine and in the study plan (Annex A).</p> <p>The evaluation of the student's preparation is based on pre-established criteria, as detailed in Annex A of the Academic Regulations for the Degree Course of Plant Medicine. For students who have stood the test of exemption, the examination of profit assessment is of thirty, and averaging the obtained votes.</p>	
Evaluation criteria		<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the ability to understand and highlight the complexity of applying organic farming techniques 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying knowledge and understanding • Being able to apply organic farming techniques. <p>Making informed judgements and choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to critically evaluate the different situations and plan efficient activities in the organic management of agricultural crops. <p>Communicating knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of personal skills, aimed at communication, multidisciplinary group work and judgmental skills, both in the technical and the human and ethical level. <p>Capacities to continue learning</p> <p>The assessment of the student's preparation is done on the basis of predefined criteria, as detailed in Annex A of the Master's Degree Course Code. For students who have supported the exemption test, the assessment of the profit test is expressed in thirtieth and averaging the votes obtained.</p>
Criteria for assessment and attribution of the final mark	The final grade is awarded out of thirty. The assessment acquired in this module, together with that of the other two modules, will contribute to the determination of the final assessment of the I. C. of Agroecosystem Management.
Additional information	