I. Course number and title: SSA 397. Food Systems in Cuba: Production, Logistics and Marketing
   Winter Sessions Course
   Credits: 3

II. Rationale
   The understanding of food systems is critical to many aspects of sustainable agriculture, including crop production, packing, distribution, sales and environmental considerations. This class will study the food system for select agricultural crops grown and marketed in Cuba. This will include production practices, inputs, postharvest, transportation, marketing, taxes and other government policies that impact the system, payment structure and opportunities for export.

III. Course Description:
   Students will study food systems in Cuba with the goal of putting together an integrated report that describes a specific food system for a specific crop.

IV. Course Objectives: At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:
   - Describe the food system for specific crop(s) grown and marketed in Cuba, and other regions of the world.
   - Demonstrate cultural understanding through direct observation, participation and discussion with Cuban farmers, vendors and government officials who work in the Cuban food system.
   - Evaluate the opportunity to export specific agricultural products to the United States and other countries.

V. Prerequisites
   - Given that this is a course about a system, we will accept students who are studying any discipline that is related to this system. This is a partial list of departments that are relevant to this course: Accounting, Communication, Environmental Conservation, Finance, Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, Language, Literatures and Cultures, Management, Marketing, Nutrition, Political Science, Public Policy and Administration, Resource Economics, Social Thought and Political Economy, Sociology, Stockbridge School of Agriculture, Veterinary and Animal.
• Spanish language proficiency (completion of 2 semesters of college Spanish) is strongly encouraged, but not required
• Other students may take this course with instructor permission only.
• This course will have a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 15 students.

VI This will be a core course of an International Agriculture Certificate in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture -
https://stockbridge.cns.umass.edu/connections-international-opportunities/international-agriculture-certificate

VII. Time Allotment
• 16 days in Cuba
  o January 2 – 18, 2016
• Eight – ten hours of class time before leaving (in person/Skype)
• Eight hours/day of class time in Cuba
• An estimated 20 hours in the US when we get back to finish the final report.

VIII Teaching Personnel
Frank Mangan, PhD
Extension Associate Professor
Stockbridge School of Agriculture
416 Paige Lab
UMass Amherst
Phone: 413-545-1178
Email: fmangan@umass.edu
Office hours: TBD

IX Teaching/Learning Methods
• A focus of the course will be related to farm and market visits in Cuba
  o Students will choose specific crops, farms and markets for which they will use for their project
• Students will work together to present information on the progress in Cuba
• Final written report due within three weeks of returning from Cuba

X. Assignments
• Each student will choose a specific crop grown in Cuba for their project
  o A specific farm and market that grows and markets this crop will be identified
  o The student will canvass the owners of the farm and market to get all the information needed for their project
This will include: cost of production, mode and cost of transportation to market, prices charged by farm, transportation and market.

- Students will meet on a regular basis in Cuba to share information on their project and get feedback by the instructor.
- The final report, which will include an “enterprise budget” for their specific crop, will be due within three weeks of returning to the United States.

**XI. Methods of Evaluation**

- Presentations in Cuba 40%
  - There will be regular presentations that each student will have to give while in Cuba. The focus of these presentations will be on the information they are gathering for their final report.
  - Input will be provided by the instructor and other students on these presentations.
  - Students will be graded on the quality of their presentations and their ability to continue to improve the quality of their information based on input and further work.

- Final report on crop and market they have chosen 60%
  - A focus of this project will be enterprise budget, described above.

**XII. Required readings**

- Cook, Christopher D. Cuba’s Harvest of Surprises. [http://craftsmanship.net/cubas-harvest-surprises/](http://craftsmanship.net/cubas-harvest-surprises/)

**XIII. Topical Outline**

- Market visits in Cuba
  - Several markets will be visited in the first few days for students to understand the types of fresh produce available in Cuban markets – estimated to be the first two days.
  - After the two days the students will choose one crop for their project.
• Farm visits in Cuba
  o We will then organize visits to the farms that are growing the specific crops that have been chosen by the students
  o Our goal will be that no more than four farms will be chosen (all crops chosen by the students will be grown on these four farms)
  o All students will go to the four farms so they can learn about and appreciate different types of production
    ▪ These will include urban, periurban and rural farms
  o This will be done in 1 - 2 days

• Craft project and enterprise budget
  o The rest of the time in Cuba will be devoted to writing up the project, described above
  o Presentations in Cuba will be made a regular basis on the progress students are making on their projects
  o Further visits to participating markets and farms will take place as needed to allow students to gather more information

• Remaining work will be completed in the United States upon retuning

XIII. Logistics for choosing specific crops/food system
• Spanish studies abroad will do the following, in consultation with Frank Mangan:
  o Select specific vendors in Havana who will be willing to work with students
  o Select farmers who sell to the specific vendors (above) who will be willing to work with students.

XIV. Housing
• The students will stay in Cuban homes, all within a four block area
• There will be a meeting space within this three-block area where meetings will be held to share experiences.

XV. Accommodation Statement
The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability on file with Disability Services (DS), you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations to help you succeed in this course. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify me within the first two weeks of the semester so that we may make appropriate arrangements.
XVI. Academic Honesty Statement
Since the integrity of the academic enterprise of any institution of higher education requires honesty in scholarship and research, academic honesty is required of all students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs of the University. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating dishonesty. Appropriate sanctions may be imposed on any student who has committed an act of academic dishonesty. Instructors should take reasonable steps to address academic misconduct. Any person who has reason to believe that a student has committed academic dishonesty should bring such information to the attention of the appropriate course instructor as soon as possible. Instances of academic dishonesty not related to a specific course should be brought to the attention of the appropriate department Head or Chair. Since students are expected to be familiar with this policy and the commonly accepted standards of academic integrity, ignorance of such standards is not normally sufficient evidence of lack of intent (http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/).