I would like this class to be driven by a combination of three elements: presentation of historical and technical information; some reliance on pertinent videos and graphics; and a good deal of class discussion and participation. It is my hope that we will all walk away better informed about our food production systems, the climatic stresses they are facing and potential positive agricultural practices that can be developed to mitigate climate change.

Week 1: We will begin by looking at the history of agriculture from its earliest formative years to the present state of food production. Even the earliest cultivators of crops and livestock herdsmen were forced to contend with extremes of climate.

Week 2: How does farming work? What are the many conditions and considerations that impact farmers and farming? How do farmers make decisions about their farming practices?

Week 3: Organic agriculture makes positive contribution to the environment and climate change mitigation. What is Organic? What are the differences between “Organic” and “Conventional” agriculture?

Week 4: What and where are the climate driven stressors facing global food production?

Week 5: How is Climate Change impacting domestic crop production?

Week 6: How is Climate Change impacting global food production?

Week 7: Solutions. Improved farming techniques can improve farm resiliency, sustainability and sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Mitigating CO2 increases to stop atmospheric heating and ocean acidification.