**Description: Irrigation Science**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-Nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
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**Academic Group:** FOENS  
**Academic Org:** FOES03  
**HECS Band:** 2  
**ASCED Code:** 039999

**STAFFING**

Examiner: Rod Smith  
Moderator: Mark Porter

**PRE-REQUISITES**

Pre-requisite: AGR3304

**OTHER-REQUISITES**

Prerequisites 70666

**SYNOPSIS**

The control of the application of water to land (irrigation) and the removal of surplus water from land (drainage) is critical to much of Australia's agriculture. This course will provide the skills necessary for the design and management of effective, efficient and sustainable on farm irrigation systems. Irrigation application methods (current and proposed) are studied with an emphasis on the evaluation and optimisation of performance. Efficient irrigation also requires an appreciation of the physical processes of the entry, storage and redistribution of water in soils; the uptake of water by plants (including limitations caused by soil salinization); evaporation of water directly into the atmosphere; and evaporation through plants as transpiration (evapotranspiration). The course will also show students that the long term viability of irrigation is dependent upon the provisions of adequate surface and subsurface drainage. Finally the course attempts to apply all of the above skills in the planning and design of whole farm irrigation systems.

**OBJECTIVES**

On completion of this course, students should be able to:

- explain the physical constraints on evaporation from crops and open water;
• apply concepts of fully forced convection to the atmospheric transport of water vapour and explain combination equation models;
• calculate potential evaporation from daily meteorological data and estimate actual crop evaporation;
• explain and make allowance for adventive and oasis effects;
• analyse and compare the available methods of evaporation measurement;
• estimate total crop consumptive use and leaching requirements, and prepare a workable irrigation schedule;
• determine the hydraulic conductivity of a saturated soil;
• apply Darcy's Law to a range of saturated and unsaturated flow problems;
• determine the infiltration behaviour of a soil under ponding and non ponding conditions and calculate limiting application rates;
• describe and compare the available irrigation methods;
• optimise the parameters in surface irrigation to achieve maximum efficiency and uniformity of applications;
• evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of an irrigation;
• evaluate the uniformity of applications for surface, sprinkler and micro irrigation methods;
• be aware of the needs and distinguishing factors of amenity irrigation;
• calculate the drainage requirements of a crop and determine a suitable drain depth - spacing combination for effective sub surface drainage;
• determine the response of a water table to drainage.

TOPICS

<table>
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<tr>
<td>1. Micrometeorology and the physics of evaporation</td>
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<td>2. Soil plant atmosphere continuum</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<td>3. Irrigation scheduling</td>
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<td>4. Irrigation application methods</td>
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<td>5. Drainage</td>
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<td>6. Irrigation performance evaluation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

American Society of Agricultural Engineers Monograph 1980, Design and Operation of Farm Irrigation Systems,
Campbell, G. S. 1985, Soil Physics with Basic, Developments in Soil Science 14, Elsevier,
Doorenbos, J. & Kassam 1979, Yield Response to Water, FAO Irrigation and Drainage Paper No 33,
STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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<td>Directed Study</td>
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<td>Examinations</td>
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<td>Private Study</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<td>19 Sep 2003</td>
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<td>3 HOUR CLOSED EXAMINATION</td>
<td>750.00</td>
<td>75.00</td>
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<td>END S2</td>
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</table>

NOTES:

- Student Administration will advise students of the dates of their examinations during the semester.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available (or at least a grade of C-) for each assessment item.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.
4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must submit all of the
summative assessment items and achieve at least 50% of the available weighted
marks for those items.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate
of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in
the course.

6 Examination information:
In a Closed Examination, candidates are allowed to bring only writing and drawing
instruments into the examination.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Any Deferred or Supplementary examinations for this course will be held during
the examination period at the end of the semester of the next offering of this course.

8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10
Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might
contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL
http://www.usq.edu.au/SECARIAT/calendar/Part5/ or in the printed version of the
current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the
assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch
date, if requested by the Examiner.

2 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be
despached to USQ within 24 hours if required by the Examiner.

3 In accordance with University's Assignment Extension Policy (Regulation 5.6.1),
the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment
in extenuating circumstances.

4 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed
or printed on paper-based media.

5 The Faculty will NOT accept submission of assignments by facsimile.

6 Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise
disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should
contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements.

7 In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their
area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day.
Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the
Examiner's convenience.

8 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who
have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally
prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up).
An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student
will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study.

9 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

1 Students will require access to e-mail and internet access to USQConnect for this course.