

SUCCESS STRATEGIES IN AGRICULTURE
AGRI 120 – Fall 2017
School of Agriculture - Western Illinois University

INSTRUCTOR

Jana Knupp

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Office Hours: M/W 8-9 a.m., T 1:00-4:00 p.m.

& TH 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. and by appointment

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Section I will meet Tuesday 8:00 a.m.-9:50 a.m. in KH 305

Last class on October 10.

Section II will meet Tuesday 10:00 a.m.-11:50 a.m. in KH 305

Last class on October 10.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES

General orientation to modern agriculture. A study of career opportunities in industry, business, production agriculture, teaching, resource management, and environment control. 1 hr. lect.

REQUIREMENTS

Instagram Account

COURSE MATERIAL & CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Course handouts will be provided as necessary. All students enrolled are required to use their WIU email and WesternOnline. Important class announcements (cancellations, etc.) will be made via WIU email, WesternOnline, and the WIU text notification system. Notes and additional information can be found on WesternOnline. Activities outside of class time will be required.

COURSE GOALS:

1. Understand methods for success at Western Illinois University and the School of Agriculture.
2. Understand career opportunities in agriculture.
3. Understand basic principles and issues within the agriculture industry.
4. Challenge your thinking and take a hold of new opportunities.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 29- Meet in the Library, 2nd Floor Classroom

September 21-Ag Alumni Panel 3 pm. KH 152

ABSENCES

To succeed in this class, you must be present. Each class period is worth 10 participation points. Excused absences (emergencies, funerals, and illness) should be cleared with the instructor **prior to the class** either via email or the OARS system. Unexcused absences will result in a loss of participation/attendance points for that day. All assignments missed due to an excused absence must be completed prior to the next class period.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

The “real world” has deadlines; therefore, this class has deadlines. Learn to meet deadlines now so when your job is on the line, it isn’t a hard task for you. Your assignment is due at the beginning of class on the day it is due in the form assigned (WO, hard copy, etc). For each day your assignment is late you will be docked 5 points.

CLASS GUIDELINES

Failure to comply with the class rules will result in a loss of participation points. Repeat offenses will result in the loss of one letter grade.

Cell Phones/laptops/tablets: Cell phones/laptops/tablets are not to be used during class unless requested to do so for class activity purposes. If, due to medical or public safety concerns, a student needs an exception to this policy he/she should inform the instructor prior to class.

*****Phone usage is not allowed during class. This isn't a joke. Seriously, put your phones away. *****

Tobacco: Use of tobacco **in any form** is prohibited in university buildings/classrooms.

Talking: Unnecessary side conversations will not be tolerated.

Respect: Please respect the opinions of your classmates during all class discussions and activities. **Fifty points** will be deducted if at any time during a conversation you are harassing or demeaning towards another student with an opposing viewpoint.

Do. The. Work.: The more effort you put into this class, the more you will get out of it.

Whining: There is a \$5 fine for whining.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will be graded on attention to instruction and detail, proper writing conventions, overall effectiveness and organization, and clarity among other components. All assignments must be typed, 12 pt. font, unless otherwise noted. Any assignment that is illegible will receive a zero.

GRADING POLICY:

The course grade will be based on the following:

GRADING SCALE:

93% and above = A

90 – 92 = A-

87 – 89 = B+

83 – 86 = B

80 – 82 = B-

77 – 79 = C+

73 – 76 = C

70 – 72 = C-

67 – 69 = D+

63 – 66 = D

60 – 62 = D-

59 and below = F

Agriculture Education Majors please note the following:

In accordance with the Illinois State Board of Education certification rules, all candidates seeking teacher certification are required by Western Illinois University to obtain a grade of "C" or better in all directed general education courses, all core courses, and all courses in the option. Note C- is below a C.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ADA Compliance: In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. For the instructor to provide the proper accommodation(s) you must obtain documentation of the need for an accommodation through Disability Resource Center (DRC) and provide it to the instructor. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire about such particular needs of students. Students who may require special assistance in emergency evacuations (i.e. fire, tornado, etc.) should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. Contact Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 298-2512 for additional services.

Title IX: University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

Academic Integrity: The rules and regulations outlined in the University's policy on academic integrity are applied to this course. <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Detailed information regarding student rights and responsibilities can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student.php>. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the posted information.

Disruptive Student Behavior: Disruptive Student Behavior is defined as inappropriate student behavior that a reasonable faculty member would view as interfering with the ability of the instructor to teach and students to learn whether in a classroom or other learning environment (such as an online course, laboratory, site field experience, internships, instructor's office, computer lab, or other setting whether it is an on-campus or off-campus location), which disrupts the educational process. It is also considered disruptive behavior for a student to exhibit threatening, intimidating, or other inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates outside of the learning environment. Further information is available at <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/disrupst.php>.

CALENDAR

Week 1 August 22: Introductions, Syllabus Overview, Success Strategies at WIU

Podcast: How to Be More Productive-Freakonomics Radio

Week 2 August 29: Get to know Google & Western Online ****meet in the Library, second floor classroom**

Podcast: Screen Time part 1 & part 2-Ted Radio Hour

Week 3 September 5: Student Organization Information, Leadership, & Select Careers & Presentation Dates

Podcast: Disruptive Leadership-Ted Radio Hour

Week 4 September 12: Resumes & Cover Letters ****feel free to bring laptops**

Podcast: The Big Picture part 1 & part 2-Career Tools

Week 5 September 19: Communication

Podcast: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Money (But Were Too Afraid to Ask)-
Freakonomics Radio

Week 6 September 26: Academic Advising, Agricultural Issues

Podcast: The Danger of Science Denial-Michael Specter-Ted Talk

Week 7 October 3: Career Presentations

Week 8 October 10: Career Presentations

ASSIGNMENTS- Due on Western Online unless otherwise noted.

WIU Experiences: (20 points each) Explore your new “home away from home.” Participate in an on-campus activity or Macomb activity that you currently do not participate in. Take a photo of the event and include in your write-up. Write-ups must contain the name, date, time, and host of the event, what you did at the event, and what you enjoyed and disliked about the event. A total of 10 experiences are due throughout the course. Examples include: attend a sporting event, cultural event, club meeting, canoe at Spring Lake, hike at Lake Argyle, volunteer at the WIU farm, etc.

WIU Career Fair: (50 points) Attend the School of Agriculture Career Fair in the Grand Ballroom on Wednesday, October 4. Dressed professionally, visit with and distribute resumes to at least three company representatives. Write a summary about who you spoke with (get their business card), which company, and what positions they have available. Is this company/position a good fit for you? Why or why not?

Guest Instagrammer for a day: (50 points) Tell others your Leatherneck story on the WIUAg Instagram account. Post a photo and caption at least 4 times on your assigned day about what you do around campus. You may include your daily routine, eating in the cafeteria, work you are doing in lab, events around campus, buildings on campus, etc. Posts should be fun, insightful, and informative. Think about information you would want to know if you were considering attending WIU (which you just were!) Please see “Instagrammer For-a-Day Guidelines”.

Ag Alumni Panel: (30 points) Attend the Ag Alumni Panel during the CBT Professional Development Series. Thursday, September 21 at 3 p.m. in Stipes 121.

Rough Draft Resume: (25 points) Write a reverse chronological resume outlining your skills and experiences. Rough draft due in class on September 19. It does not need to be on resume paper.

Resume: (50 points) Write a reverse chronological resume outlining your skills and experiences. Hard copy due in class on resume paper by September 26.

Weekly Podcast: (30 points) Listen to the assigned podcast. Write a summary about what you learned and answer the questions assigned.

Career Paper & Presentation: (200 points) Select a career from AgExpolrer.com that you are not familiar with (cannot choose “farmer”), but are interested in. Research that career and write a summary and create a 6-8 minute presentation including (but not limited to) the following. Your paper should be a minimum of 2 pages and should be written in MLA format. It is due the day you present.

Education required	Career advancement	Would you want to pursue this position?
Geography of position	Job market	What do you need to do if so?
Job responsibilities	Companies that hire for this position	What skills do you possess for this position?
Professional organizations (explain at least one)	Salary & Benefits	

Final Project: (135 points) A summary about your plans for the future. Details will be given in class.

Total Points: 1000

EXTRA CREDIT

CBT Professional Development Series: (up to 10 points each-30 points max) Attend and write a summary about what you learned from a session from the CBT Professional Development Series, September 11-22. For a full list of sessions, visit <http://www.wiu.edu/cbt/career/> **Bring your WIU ID! (Ag Alumni Panel does not count!)**

Volunteer: (up to 40 points max) Volunteer your time to help within the Macomb community. For each hour you volunteer, earn 5 points. Summarize who, what, where, when, why and have your supervisor sign and date the verification form available on Western Online.

Get Involved: (20 points) Attend the School of Agriculture Back-to-School Picnic and get to know your fellow Leathernecks. Date TBA

NOTICES

Please be advised that this syllabus is **tentative**. All classes are different and we may or may not be able to address all of the content areas. Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.