

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
INAG 310 – FALL 2020
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE – WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: MWF 10–11, M 1-2, or by appointment.
Virtual Office Hours Preferred!

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATION

The Face to Face (F2F) section of INAG 310 will meet on M-W-F in Knoblauch 307 from 12:00-12:50 p.m. Please note that we will establish an assigned seating chart. The online section will complete the class asynchronously (with occasional Zoom sessions for discussion).

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES

INAG 310 focuses on international agriculture development. Special emphasis is given to world hunger and world food needs, use of limited natural resources, population growth, trade policies, and appropriate technology used in developing countries. This course falls into the General Education/Multicultural Studies area and it is also a Global Issues course. There are no prerequisites for this course. However, completion of an English Composition course would be beneficial as there is a fair amount of writing.

JUSTIFICATION

Over the past several decades the American agricultural and food systems have become increasingly global in perspective. Consumers regularly consume foods which originate and/or are produced around the world. Midwest farmers depend on export markets for the sale of a significant portion of their production; seed and chemical companies are international in scope; and US foreign policy has, at times, both helped and hindered the development of agricultural export markets. In most developing countries, the majority of the people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Their cultural values affect their agricultural systems and how those systems relate to the global agricultural system. It is almost certain that today's students will be involved internationally, whether they work for a company with an international division, produce a product for an international market, or work for an organization that faces international competition. An understanding of the human and cultural diversity found in the agricultural and food systems will provide a basis for more effectively handling the international aspects of careers.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding of how culture influences and interacts with the production, distribution and consumption of food in other countries; how American agriculture fits into the world economy; and what developing countries are doing to increase food availability for their growing populations, given their cultural and economic constraints.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Demonstrate an understanding the critical role played by agriculture in the world today.
2. Demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of the impact, and interaction, of human and cultural diversity on food systems in other countries.
3. Analyze the impact of the world agricultural situation on American agriculture.
4. Understand how agricultural development can be initiated and sustained in developing countries with diverse cultural backgrounds.
5. Analyze the impact of environmental, physical, and socio-economic variables on agricultural production and human welfare.
6. Develop knowledge and appreciation of other cultures.
7. Demonstrate improvement in effective writing skills.

TEXTS

- There are no required text books for the course. Links to online resources and supplemental handouts will be provided. A reference style manual would be useful.

USE OF TOBACCO

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

USE OF CELL PHONES AND SMART WATCHES

As a courtesy to other students and to the instructor, all cell phones should be turned off or to vibrate prior to class. Smart Watches are not to be used during class. Continued disregard of this policy may result in ejection from the course. 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. Cell phones may not be used for any reason during an exam. **Texting is not allowed during class** and repeated violations will lead to dismissal from the course with an assigned grade of F.

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 7	-	Labor Day – No Class	Day – No Class
Nov. 1	-	Last Day to drop with a W	
Nov. 3	-	Election Day – No Class	
Nov. 23-27	-	Thanksgiving Break	
Nov. 30 – Dec. 11-		Classes will all be online	
Dec. 14	-	F2F - Final Exam – 1:00- 2:50	
		Online – To be determined	

GRADING POLICY

The course grade will be based on the following factors, with weightings as indicated:

Exam I	20%	A = 93% or above	C- = 70-72.99%
Exam II	20%	A- = 90-92.99%	D+ = 67-69.99%
Comprehensive Final Exam	25%	B+ = 87-89.99%	D = 63-66.99%
Quizzes and Homework	5%	B = 83-86.99%	D- = 60-62.99%
Values Paper	10%	B- = 80-82.99%	F = <60%
Discussion Boards (10)	5%	C+ = 77-79.99%	
Group Project	15%	C = 73-76.99%	
Total	100%		

Grade breaking points may be lowered, but in no case will they be raised. These breaking points will be evaluated only after final numerical grades have been calculated.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will be docked 10% per day (including the due date.) Assignments will not be accepted after the homework has been discussed in class.

Attention Education Majors. To meet state certification requirements, Education majors are now required to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course (note the change). With the university +/- grading system, receiving a below a C- will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet graduation requirements.

Values Paper. Each student will write a paper comparing and contrasting their values regarding the food and fiber system with those of someone from another country or someone who has spent a significant amount of time in another country. The paper should be 4-5 pages in length, double spaced with one-inch margins and be in 12 point font. Late papers will receive a 5 point-per-class-period deduction for each class period that they are late. **Value Papers will be due on or before October 15.** More details will be provided in class.

Exams. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short essays. The exact nature of the exams will be indicated one week in advance. Three exams are planned during the semester (two mid-terms and a final). Under no circumstances will exams be given early. The final **will be comprehensive.** Makeup exams will be given only in extreme situations. **All exams will be administered online through Western Online.**

Group Project. Students will be randomly assigned to teams. Each team will be assigned a country. The team will prepare a country report highlighting general information, agricultural practices, and trade. In addition, each team will give an oral presentation (recorded using Zoom or similar platform) on the agriculture, industry/commerce, culture, and political structure of the assigned country. More detail will be provided in class. **A due date will be announced in class and posted to Western Online.** The presentations will be the basis of the final class module and will be due prior to Thanksgiving Break.

Quizzes and Homework. Participation in each class is both encouraged and expected. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced; the timing and number of quizzes will be determined in part by the level of participation in class discussions/activities and attendance.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance in class is expected. It is your responsibility to get any missed material from a classmate. **To be able to participate effectively you will have to read the assignments before class.** Plan not only to show up, but to ask questions, take notes, to think, and to speak.

ONLINE ABSENCE REPORTING SYSTEM

The university has implemented an online absence reporting system. Please note that this system does not excuse your absence – it merely documents. It is still up to the instructor to excuse the absence. For more information please see: <http://wiu.edu/oars>. The Student Health Center no longer issues absence forms

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Participation: Students are expected to regularly attend class and to actively participate in discussions.

Academic Integrity: The rules and regulations outlined in the University's policy on academic integrity are applied to this course.

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

Special Accommodations: If you need special accommodations, please feel free to stop by and discuss your needs or contact Disability Support Services at 298-2512.

ACCREDITATION

The Agriculture Department is housed in the College of Business and Technology which is accredited by AACSB-International.

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 or stick with the anticipated number of exams and/or assignments. Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction - Understanding the Importance of Agriculture to All Nations
 - A. Understanding our connection to agriculture.
 - B. Current status.
 - C. Differentiating between developed and underdeveloped countries.
 - D. Problems faced by developing nations
 - E. Agriculture as a source of economic development

- II. Culture, Values, and Cross-Cultural Variations in Agriculture
 - A. Defining culture and understanding its impact on development.
 - B. Social “foodways.”
 - C. Facts, Values, and Beliefs.
 - D. The “Ugly American”

Exam I

- III. Population Growth and Providing for Adequate Human Nutrition
 - A. Implications of population growth
 - B. Understanding Malthus and the “Iron Law of Wages”
 - C. Understanding Population Pyramids
 - D. Growth in developing versus developed countries
 - E. Factors impacting population growth rates
 - F. Family planning policies
 - G. Adequate human nutrition
 - H. Maternal depletion syndrome
 - I. Nutrition impacts on population

- IV. The Nature and Extent of Agricultural Production Worldwide
 - A. Food security versus self-sufficiency
 - B. Agricultural production systems
 - C. Appropriate Technology and the Technological Treadmill
 - D. Marketing versus distribution
 - E. Food safety

- V. Development
 - A. Development Indices
 - B. Agricultural policies
 - C. International trade
 - D. IMF and the World Bank

Exam II

- VI. Environmental and Social Influences on Global Agricultural Production
 - A. Agriculture and the environment
 - B. Natural resource base
 - C. Energy and Pollution issues
 - D. Changing tastes and preferences
 - E. Debt-for-Nature Swaps

- VII. Student Presentations

COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM

Course Adjustments Due to the Pandemic

Course Adjustments Due to Pandemic

- Facial masks must be worn in class – no exceptions.
- Attendance will be taken for face to face classes to assist with contract tracing should this become necessary.
- I will be limiting my time on campus and will be working from home as much as possible. I will respond to emails as quickly as I can.
- All assignments will be completed online. No hardcopy of assignments will be accepted.
- All assignments will be graded electronically.
- No hardcopies of excuse letters/Drs. notes will be accepted. If you need to provide a copy to me, scan it or take a picture of it and email it to me at kj-bacon@wiu.edu.
- For help with any assignments, email your content and question to me rather than bringing in your computer.
- In person office hours will still be available but **virtual meetings will be preferred.**
- All exams will be online.
- Student presentations will occur during the last two weeks of class. Students are encouraged to use Zoom or Google Hangouts to record their presentations. Optionally, students may add sound to their PowerPoint slides using the Record Audio feature. Students are NOT to use Google Slides for adding sound (technical limitations). Google Slides may be used to create the presentation, as long as the presentation is recorded using either Zoom or Hangouts (more detail will be provided in class). Sound can be added directly to PowerPoint but this can be more complicated if one or more students is using an Apple computer.

Potential Disruptions to Face-to-Face Classes

- It is the intent of WIU to offer face-to-face classes where possible throughout the fall. However, there may be a period where individual faculty members (including myself) will have to self-isolate.
- There is a risk that the university will have to return to all online course before the semester is over.
- Any disruptions requiring me to move my classes to an online format (whether briefly or for an extended period) will be handled by moving content to Western Online in an asynchronous format. Course notes will be supplemented by brief videos as relevant in such a situation. If we move back as a university to all online, my courses will be offered as an asynchronous online class with weekly check-ins to review key concepts and for discussion. Additional discussion boards may be added as needed.

Positive Actions You Can Take

- Wear your masks when around others and encourage others to do the same.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Think about the risk of social interactions with others – minimize as much as possible.
- Understand we are all in this together. Have patience with everyone as we adjust to this change in our environment.
- Complete the University's Self Check before coming to campus each day at wiu.edu/Selfcheck/