

Ag Ed 406 -

Exploring International Agriculture

Spring Semester 2008

Wednesdays

4:00 – 6:00 pm Pacific Time

5:00 - 7:00 pm Mountain Time

104 Ag Sciences Building

UI- College of Southern Idaho

UI – Idaho Falls

Dr. Robert J. Haggerty, Director

International Programs

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

40-E Ag Science Building

Phone: 885-5784

Fax: 885-6654

Email: haggerty@uidaho.edu

Dr. Ben Swan, Assistant Professor, AEE

Email: bswan@uidaho.edu

Class Website: <http://aee.ag.uidaho.edu/Curriculum/aged306/>

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

Over the course of the last decades of the 20th century, agriculture has become a significant industry in world trade. As we proceed in the 21st century, successful agricultural leaders must have intricate knowledge of world cultures, food production, food processing, and international agricultural trade. American agriculture is significantly influenced by economics, politics, and culture in remote corners of the world. The tragic terrorist events of September 11, 2001 in the United States as well as war in Afghanistan and Iraq have eliminated any lingering sense of our country's isolation from world events. This course is designed to provide students a general overview of agriculture around the world and the opportunity to develop a broad and in-depth understanding of agriculture in a country or region of the world. The course combines expert lectures, student presentations and group discussions to achieve its objectives.

Course Objectives Ag Ed 406:

After completing this course the student should be able to:

1. Describe interdependencies among countries throughout the world in relation to food production and distribution.
2. Describe food production practices in various regions of the world.
3. Discuss the role of agriculture in world cultural, social, political, and economic structures.
4. Discuss the major challenges facing agricultural production and distribution throughout the world.
5. Discuss the role of natural resources in relation to world food production.
6. Compare and contrast agricultural production and distribution in prospering regions of the world with that in poorer regions.
7. Describe the fundamental elements necessary to design an agricultural development project for a given country.

Course Structure and Methodology:

The course will maintain a relatively informal structure that depends on active student attendance and participation in class meetings along with self-study to achieve the course objectives. Each week there will be one to two presentations made by different guest presenters who specialize in his or her given topic. Presenters will include students from the class. Presentation methods may include Power Point, photo slides, transparencies, and even note-making on a whiteboard. There may be the opportunity to view videotapes during class periods. Every effort will be made to maintain a smooth sequence of presentations but last minute changes in guest presenter schedules sometimes have to be accommodated which will affect the class calendar.

There are no exams planned for the course but the trade-off for students is strict adherence to the regimen of regular class attendance and participation. Strict adherence to deadlines and the quality of three major course requirements is strongly recommended in order to succeed in the course. The course will be televised live with students participating in at least two different locations in Idaho – Twin Falls, and Moscow. Procedures will be followed in the class meeting to maximize the benefit of having geographically dispersed class participants.

The three major requirements in the course involve team projects. One of eight regions of the world will be assigned to each team. The team will select a country within the assigned region then build and present a country profile and design an agricultural development project for that country. Team composition will be negotiated with the instructor.

The eight regions are:

Caribbean Basin
South America
Europe
Sub-Saharan Africa
North Africa / Near East
Central /South Asia
East/Southeast Asia
Oceania

Team formation:

Each student will send to Dr. Haggerty an email and indicate their personal top four choices of regions, ranked in descending order. It would be helpful if each student provide an explanation for choosing his/her rankings. Teams will be formed around the results of these rankings. Teams can consist of individuals in Twin Falls and/or Moscow. **The deadline for submitting the individual rankings is Friday January 18, 2008.**

Ground rules for communication within teams will be established after teams have been formed.

Assignments:

Attendance and participation in class meetings is essential.

To this end, each student will complete and submit a short summary/evaluation of each class meeting immediately following the class meeting. The summary/evaluation will be submitted by email to Dr. Haggerty. The summary/evaluation should be submitted by the close of business on the day following the class presentation. A missing summary/evaluation will indicate the student did not attend class and will reduce their grade accordingly. Team members will also evaluate each other. This will hold team members accountable to sharing the workload and doing their fair share of the assignments. Please see the course grading guidelines below.

If a student cannot attend class, notify Dr. Haggerty in advance. Arrangements can be made for the student to view the missed class on DVD and then submit the short summary/evaluation.

There are three primary assignments for the course:

1. Presentation of Country Profile Overview – 20 minute limit, Power Point

As guides, follow Economist Country Briefings (<http://www.economist.com/countries/>), CIA World Factbook (<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/profileguide.html>), FAO Country Profiles (<http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/default.asp?lang=en>).

2. Country Profile, Complete, posted on AgEd 306 Web Site:

<http://aee.ag.uidaho.edu/Curriculum/aged306/>. Follow Economist Country Briefings, CIA Factbook, FAO Country Profiles as guides.

Word documents and/or Excel files should be saved as html files, Power Point slides as pps files, then sent as email attachments to haggerty@uidaho.edu . The files will be posted to the class web site as soon as possible after the files are received.

3. Group Agricultural Development Project Design – May have a production agriculture, value-added processing, agribusiness, or educational emphasis/focus. Target country may be a less developed or more developed country. Guidelines will be provided.

Grading Guidelines:

Attendance and Participation	150 points
Country Profile Overview Presentation	100 points
Country Profile completed and posted to AgEd 306 Web Site	100 points
Completed Agricultural Development Project Design	<u>200 points</u>
Total	550 points

Grade breakdowns will follow the natural breaks in the accumulated point total looking at the class as a whole. It is anticipated that the breakdown will follow, approximately, the standard grades, A thru F.