

AGRICULTURE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY
AGRI 120 – Fall 2021
School of Agriculture - Western Illinois University

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: T/TH 9-11 a.m., Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m.
F2F by appointment

OFFICE HOURS: We can meet in person, via email, Google Hangouts, phone, however you'd like to visit works for me. A heads up will help to make sure I don't have another appointment and that you aren't waiting around.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Section I will meet Monday and Wednesday 3-3:50 p.m. in KH 306

Section II will meet Monday and Wednesday 4-4:50 p.m. in KH 306

Last class on October 13.

We will meet face-to-face unless we have Zoom speakers scheduled or another outside activity. When Zoom speakers are scheduled you can login from your home computer to participate instead of coming to class. We will not meet in class when we have Zoom speakers. To be considered present you must have your camera on, participate, and be attentive." Multi-tasking" is not considered present and you will lose your attendance points for that day.

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.

COURSE MATERIAL & CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Course handouts will be provided as necessary. All students enrolled are **required to use their WIU email and Western Online**. Important class announcements will be made via WIU email, Western Online, and the WIU text notification system. Notes and additional information can be found on Western Online.

Activities outside of class time will be required.

COURSE GOALS:

1. Understand methods for success and leadership and educational opportunities 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 hold of new opportunities.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 16, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Zoom Alumni Panel

October 6, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Career Fair-University Union Grand Ballroom

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** via email, the OARS system, or in person. Notifying the instructor of your absence does not mean you are excused from class that day. Notifying me of your absence after class has begun does not count as an excused absence. 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 or they will result in a zero.

All absences should be reported to the Student Development and Success Center.

Covid related absence from class will be considered excused if the absence is (1) due to a required isolation or quarantine based on a (2) documented directive from a public health official or health provider, and (3) if the instructor of record receives notification through WIU Student Services. The student (4) remains responsible for contacting instructors to arrange to complete missed work as soon as possible and is (5) ultimately responsible for material covered in class.

This is not a Zoom class. I will do my best to Zoom lectures if you are in quarantine or isolation for Covid, however simply not wanting to attend class, not wanting to drive here, etc. are not reasons for joining via Zoom.

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 class discussions and activities.

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, and in either a **Word document or PDF format uploaded to Western Online unless otherwise noted. Do not upload a photo of your homework.**

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

Attention Education Majors:

The changes within the state teaching license require all education majors to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet Illinois teaching license requirements. With the university +/- grading system, receiving a "D+" or below will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet School of Agriculture graduation requirements.

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 it 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 8 experiences are due throughout the course (one each week). Examples include: attend a cultural event, club meeting, try a new restaurant, participate in an activity with your floor, canoe at Spring Lake, hike at Lake Argyle, volunteer, attend a new church service, etc. Zoom events DO count, but please participate. Activities that are other assignments (i.e. the ag career fair) cannot count toward a WIU Experience.

Ag Alumni Panel: (50 points) Attend the Zoom Ag Alumni Panel on September 16 from 3-4:30 p.m. Participate by asking questions of the panelists. Write a summary about what you learned from the speakers.

Resume: (50 points) Write a reverse chronological resume outlining your skills and experiences.

WIU Career Fair: (50 points) Attend the School of Agriculture Career Fair on Wednesday, October 6 in the University Union Grand Ballroom. Dressed professionally, visit with at least three company representatives. Write a summary about who you spoke with, 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 a 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.”

Mentor Assignments: (50 points each) Complete each of the mentor assignments per its individual instructions.

Mentor Paper and Presentation: (100 points) Write a final paper on the mentor program. Present on the experience in class. Additional details will be provided.

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

EXTRA CREDIT

No Stupid Questions: (5 points each) Ask a (legitimate) question at the beginning of class to help you learn more about WIU, the School of Ag, the agriculture industry or the world at large. We may not have all the answers but we can find them together.

Additional extra credit opportunities will be available throughout the course.

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>.

MOVE TO ONLINE

In the event that the university moves to online instruction ahead of schedule, or my situation requires the move to online, we will meet as a group one to two days per week. The amount of days we meet synchronously will be determined by the content being taught. If we do not meet over Zoom, you will be required to read and listen to the recorded lectures on Western Online. I will provide you with a run down of the week ahead on Sunday evening via email.

Should we move to online instruction, that does not mean that your schoolwork is a second priority to your job.

School is still your job. Unless you have a family emergency that states otherwise, I do expect you to be present at all online class periods and have your work turned in on time.

For online meetings, I ask that you have your webcam on as long as your internet supports it. It is very difficult to talk to a computer of black squares for 50 minutes. The class will remain interactive and I will call on people frequently, so pay attention.

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.