

International Agriculture Travel Study in the Western Hemisphere
INAG 361 – COSTA RICA – SPRING 2018
School of Agriculture – Western Illinois University

INSTRUCTOR

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or by appointment.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

INAG 361 will meet in KH 308 from 5:00-8:00 Sunday nights (except Super Bowl Sunday) each week of the spring semester prior to departure and will meet the first Sunday night after returning from the trip. Note: Time on Sunday may be adjusted based on student preferences.

EMAILS

Please be sure to include the course number in which you are enrolled in any emails.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES

INAG 361- International Agriculture Travel Study in the Western Hemisphere. (Global Issues) The study of the history and culture of a region, integrated with agricultural production, processing, development, and trade through classroom instruction and international travel. A maximum of six credits of INAG 361 and INAG 362 can be used toward departmental electives.

TEXTS

- There is no text required for this course.
- Supplemental handouts via Western Online.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Students will be able to compare and contrast Costa Rican and US agriculture and related policies.
2. Students will define culture in their own words and use that definition to compare and contrast the culture they experience at home to the culture they experience while studying abroad.
3. Students will integrate the academic material covered in pre-departure meeting with the field experience gained while in country.
4. Students will be able to identify significant Costa Rican historical events.
5. Students will be able to explain the geography, development & educational practices in Costa Rica.
6. Students will be expected to react with flexibility and independence to unexpected and unfamiliar - circumstances they face during their study abroad experiences.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Participation: Students are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the course.

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 Resources Center at 298-2512.

USE OF CELLULAR PHONES AND SMARTWATCHES

As a courtesy to other students and to the instructor, all cell phones should be turned off prior to 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 are not be used under

any circumstances on exams. **Texting** is not allowed during class and repeated violations will lead to dismissal from the course with an assigned grade of F.

TOBACCO POLICY

Tobacco use of any kind will not be tolerated in class. This includes chewing tobacco.

ACCREDITATION

The School of Agriculture 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. Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1/21	Organizational, entry/exit requirements, vaccinations, souvenirs, luggage, eating, readings, papers, topics.
1/28	Pre-departure session, phrases/slang, culture, Costa Rican history.
2/4	No-class, Super Bowl Sunday
2/11	Speaker - Student presentations
2/18	Speaker - Student presentations
2/25	Costa Rica agricultural trends, political and business climate
3/4	Review itinerary, passport control, customs, drugs, alcohol, police, money, walking around, etc.
3/25	Follow-up meetings, evaluation

Grading Scale

A 100 - 92% A- 91 - 90% B+ 89 - 88% B 87 - 82% B- 81 - 80% C+ 79 - 78% C 77 - 72% C- 71 - 70% D+ 69 - 68% D 67 - 62% D- 61 - 60% F <60%

Grades will be based on:

	Points Possible
• In Class Presentation	100
• In Class Attendance/Participation	100
• Daily Reflective Journal	100
• Outside Presentation	100
• Tour Participation	100
• Final Reflective Paper	100
<u>Total</u>	600

Assignments

Outside reading will be posted on Western Online that cover the history, culture, agriculture and business sectors of Costa Rica.

1. In Class Presentation. Each student will be assigned a topic related to the history and culture of Costa Rica. The student will then give a 15-20 minute PowerPoint presentation on the assigned topic in class. A copy of the PowerPoint needs to be submitted for final evaluation. Evaluation will be based on content and delivery.
2. Daily Reflective Journal – Each day, students (while traveling – including actual travel days) will write a reflective journal detailing, learning experiences, cultural understandings, positive and negative experiences of traveling and other relevant information. These journals will be reviewed and evaluated periodically on the trip. The evaluation will be based on sincerity, depth of reflection, insight provided, thoroughness and effort.
3. Outside Presentation – After returning to WIU, students will each develop a presentation to be given to an outside group (club, class, community group, etc.). Evaluation will be based on content and delivery. These PowerPoint type presentations will feature photographs taken on the trip.
4. Tour Participation – While on the travel portion of the course students will be evaluated on teamwork, positive engagement, timeliness, cooperation, attitude, interest, and respect.
5. In Class Participation/Attendance. Regarding the campus component, students need to attend all classes. Any unexcused absence will result in a letter grade reduction in the course.
6. Final Reflective Paper. Upon return home, students will write a summary paper of the trip. This is to include what was seen and how it impacted you. The paper is to include personal thoughts and insights on your experiences – what you saw, how the situation appeared to you, personal thoughts and insights, etc. This paper is to be more than just a travel log of dates, times and places --describe your feelings and thoughts at the time (thus the importance of good notes).

Excuses: Any excuse for a missed assignment must be cleared before the assignment is due. In general, the only accepted excuses will be for pre-excused official university events, personal health with a doctor's excuse, and verifiable family emergencies. Missed class: One class may be missed that meets the above stated standard – a make-up activity can be arranged to supplement the content missed. The makeup activity includes reviewing content and writing a report.

Schedule: The instructor reserves the right to change topics to fit the needs of the students and or to accommodate the teaching schedule.

Attention Education Majors:

The changes within the state certification require all education majors to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet these new requirements.