

COURSE OUTLINE

Agriculture in our Society

Course Description

AG 111. Agriculture in our Society. 2 hours credit. This course will give the student a broad understanding of the history, trends and opportunities in agriculture, and career areas in agriculture are presented. Resource people will discuss their occupations in agriculture and how they serve the agricultural community.

Course Relevance

We live in an ever-changing, diverse and complex agricultural world. This course will open the eyes of students wishing to prepare themselves for a career in agriculture and will enhance the student's ability to succeed in future agriculture courses and their future careers.

Required Materials

AG 111 Ag in our Society – No text required

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to

1. Identify current trends in the world of agriculture
2. Speak with confidence on numerous current agricultural issues
3. Communicate an understanding of various job opportunities in agriculture
4. Develop critical thinking skills regarding changes in the agricultural community

Primary Learning PACT Skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in this course

Through the student's involvement in this course, he/she will develop his/her ability in the following primary PACT skill areas:

1. Critical Thinking
 - The student will develop critical thinking skills through assignments, exams and in class activities.
2. Speaking
 - The student will develop oral communications skills through in class individual and group assignments.

Secondary skills (developed but not documented):

Teamwork
Self-Concept
Ethical Conduct
Problem Solving
Historical Interpretation

Writing
Reading
Listening

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcomes and the primary Learning PACT skills will be demonstrated by

1. Completion of a writing assignment and group presentation in debate form on a controversial topic prevalent to agriculture today. (critical thinking)
2. Completion of several individual in class oral presentations on current agriculture issues, technologies and career fields. (speaking)

Course Content

- I. Themes – Key recurring concepts that run throughout this course:
 - A. Careers in agriculture
 - B. Agricultural trends
 - C. Current issues in agriculture
- II. Issues – Key areas of conflict that must be understood in order to achieve the intended outcome:
 - A. Demographics of agriculture world-wide
 - B. All current issues in agriculture
- III. Concepts – Key concepts that must be understood to address the issues:
 - A. Current status of United States agriculture
 - B. Where the United States stands in regard to global agriculture
 - C. Which issues are most critical to the future of agriculture
 - D. Terminology related to agriculture and the diverse topics of the course
- IV. Skills/Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Speaking
 - B. Reading
 - C. Writing
 - D. Critical thinking
 - E. Application of concepts

Learning Units

- I. History of agriculture
 - A. Historical perspective of agriculture
 - B. Current United States industry
 - C. Understanding of global industry
- II. Current industry trends and controversial issues
 - A. Individual oral presentations on topics of importance to agriculture
 - B. Team debates on controversial topic
- III. In Class Speakers
 - A. University speakers
 - B. Industry/Career speakers

IV. Resume development

Learning Activities

Lecture, instructor-led class discussions, group study, guest speakers, library research and student presentations.

Grade Determination

The student will be graded on completion of exams, quizzes, homework and in-class assignments, individual presentations, class participation, and other methods of evaluation at the discretion of the instructor.