

**SYLLABUS: AG ECON 250**  
**Spring Semester 2017**  
**10:30-11:20AM, M.W.F. in Krannert G-16**  
**Prof. Otto Doering**  
**KRAN 569**

**M Jan. 9 Introduction to the class; resources/economics - institutions/history, Class paper, WSJ, and start discussion of resource dependency**

**PURCHASE TEXT at COPYMAT AND START READING**

*Agricultural History Section:*

**W Jan. 11 Resource Dependency of Civilizations (Plow that Broke the Plains – video)**

**F Jan 13 History of Agriculture and its development in Europe**

**M Jan 16 *Martin Luther King Day***

**W Jan. 18 Utilizing our Knowledge Resources (When is a fact a fact)**

**F Jan. 20 Agricultural History, Continued**

**M Jan. 23 Agricultural History – Location Theory (Von Thunen) & Erie Canal (Vid)**

**W Jan. 25 Quiz on History, etc.; Begin Climate – temperature**

*Climate/Weather and the Geography of its Impacts:*

**F Jan. 27 Climate Continued – precipitation, capacity to hold water & climatic regions**

**M Jan. 30 Climate - effects on agriculture and resources – Rain & Temperature Distrib.**

**W Feb. 1 Climate Change - impacts of change, and the climate water nexus**

**F Feb. 3 Climate Change Projections - alternative policies & economic issues**

**M Feb. 6 Quiz on Climate; Begin Economic Principles**

*Basic Economic Concepts:*

**W Feb. 8 Economic Principles – supply and demand, marginal analysis**

- F Feb. 10 Production Economics - induced technological innovation**
- M Feb 13 Regional Specialization – Ricardo, the theory**
- W Feb. 15 Regional Specialization – working through examples**  
*First Group Paper Assignment*
- F Feb. 17 Trade Issues – why there are barriers – fear of protection**
- M Feb. 20 President’s Day – U.S. President’s role in agriculture & resources**  
*First Group Paper Due*
- W Feb. 22 Economic Fallout - balance of payments, value of the dollar, etc.**
- F Feb. 24 Exam covering everything so far**

*Food Production, Technology and Government Policy in the US:*

- M Feb. 27 U.S. Agriculture – diversity of climate and resources**  
*Second Group Paper Assignment*
- W Mar. 1 Historical background (Vid) – role of technological change**
- F Mar. 3 Issues (Vid) - nature and purpose of agricultural policy**  
*Second Group Paper Due*
- M Mar. 6 Drivers of US agriculture – today’s farming**  
**(“Farmland” film)**

*Japan; Agricultural Modernization and Industrial Development:*

- W Mar. 8 Quiz on U.S. agriculture/history/technology – Begin Japanese history**
- F Mar. 10 Nature of Japanese development – slides**
- SPRING BREAK***
- M Mar. 20 Japan - growth pattern, trade and policy**
- W Mar. 22 Japan continued:**

*Current Global Resource and Economic Issues*

- F Mar. 24** Global Resource Issues – oil, minerals, land, and oceans.
- M Mar. 27** Global Economic Issues – European problems, etc.
- W Mar. 29** Global Economic Issues – exchange rates, trade, employment, etc.
- F Mar. 31** Exam covering U.S., Japan, and Global Issues

*Demography and its issues*

- M April 3** Demography and Population - as a world issue (vid)  
*Third Group Paper Assignment*
- W April 5** Demography, Continued
- F April 7** Immigration – causes/effects & benefits/costs  
*Third Group Paper Due*

*Resource and Food Issues*

- M April 10** Global resources for food production; land, water, climate,  
*Fourth Group Paper Assignment*
- W April 12** Resources & Climate, Cont. and food security
- F April 14** Food Security -  
*Fourth Group paper Due*
- M April 17** Ensuring food for the future? – What is to be done?
- W April 19** Quiz – Demography, Resources and Food – start water availability, Etc.

*Water Resource Issues:*

- F April 21** Property rights and common resource water issues
- M April 24** Water quality and sustainability
- W April 26** Sustainability Issues; carrying capacity & dynamic resource constraints
- F April 28** Review Class (and evening) review sessions