

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS 250
THE ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF WORLD FOOD AND RESOURCES

Spring Semester, 2016
Lectures 10:30 M, W, F in Krannert G-16

This course is an introduction to the world's agriculture, natural resources and environment as seen through the eyes of economists, geographers, historians, political and natural scientists. We provide the basic background knowledge and a framework for you to assess and make informed judgments about critical food, resource, environmental, and economic issues and policies around the world.

Instructor: Professor Otto Doering assisted by Saima Matin

Office Hours: Open door policy; or catch me before or after class. You can phone ahead to be sure I am there, room 569 Krannert Bldg., Ph. 494-4226; E-Mail (*as a last resort*) doering@purdue.edu

Required Texts:

1. A set of Ag. Econ. 250 readings is available from Copymat in Chauncey Hill Mall. **It is revised every year and is essential.**
2. Wall Street Journal – you will sign up for a special subscription.

Objective: To instill knowledge of the world's food and resource systems, an understanding of why things are the way they are today, and a familiarity with the history, policies and institutions that have shaped nations' development. This should enable you to assess and make judgments about long term resource sustainability and economic conditions around the world. Ultimately, you should be able to integrate facts within the context you have learned and assess the consequences of different policies for dealing with world food, resource, and environmental problems in an economic context.

Procedure: Major topics will be covered as a block. Information from the readings will be discussed and given context by the lectures - so it is essential to keep up with readings and attend lectures. You also will write a short paper based on an assigned writing or newspaper article.

Course work: quizzes or exams will be given every several weeks. There will be; 4 quizzes, 2 term exams, a short paper, and a comprehensive final exam. Weights will be approximately as follows:

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Four Quizzes | @28% |
| Short Paper | @ 8% |
| Two Term Exams | @40% |
| Final Exam | @24% |

Late or missed Quizzes/Exams: These should not exist, but with a valid excuse every once in a while they do. Late work will be marked down a grade, but that is better than a zero on your average. Zeros are deadly! Tell me ahead of time to make up a quiz/exam if you must miss it. If you are falling behind, come see me as soon as possible.

Attendance: You will find it hard to do well if you do not attend class. The lectures introduce new material, organize what you are learning, and help you understand the readings. The lectures also explain what is important to learn and are intended to be interesting and useful!

Personal and Academic Integrity: I expect it of you, just as you should expect it of me. It is not worth taking a chance. **Cheating in any way will not be tolerated!**

Students' Rights *and Responsibilities:*

1. Students have the right to high quality instruction and educational resources.

Students have the responsibility to pursue a high standard of quality in their own work.

2. Students have the right to the necessary assistance and attention from a faculty member teaching a class.

Students have the responsibility to do the reading, to attend lectures and to define where assistance and/or attention are needed.

3. Students have the right to credit for their own work and ideas.

Students have the responsibility to acknowledge the work and ideas of others.

4. Students have the right to have their work fairly evaluated according to a uniform grading system and to have a grade explained and reviewed for correctness.

Students have the responsibility to understand the University's grading policies and the grading procedures followed in each course they take.

5. Students have the right to study, work and live in a tolerant university community and be treated as individuals.

Students have the responsibility to treat other individuals in the community with respect and consideration at all times.

These statements reflect the university tradition of freedom and the corresponding responsibilities of students. Since you are largely free to do as you please while pursuing your studies, you are also responsible for what you please to do or not do!

SYLLABUS: AG ECON 250
Spring Semester 2016
10:30-11:20AM, M.W.F. in Krannert G-16
Prof. Otto Doering
KRAN 569

M Jan. 11 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. 13 Resource Dependency of Civilizations (Plow that Broke the Plains – video)

F Jan 15 History of Agriculture and its development in Europe

M Jan 18 *Martin Luther King Day*

W Jan. 20 Agricultural History Continued and sustaining Soils

F Jan. 22 Utilizing Our Knowledge Resources

M Jan. 25 Agricultural History – Location Theory (Von Thunen) & Erie Canal (Vid)

W Jan. 27 Quiz on History, etc.; Begin Climate – temperature

Climate/Weather and the Geography of its Impacts:

F Jan. 29 Climate Continued – precipitation, capacity to hold water & climatic regions

M Feb. 1 Climate - effects on agriculture and resources – Rain & Temperature Distrib.

W Feb. 3 Climate Change - impacts of change, and the climate water nexus

F Feb. 5 Climate Change Projections - alternative policies & economic issues

M Feb. 8 Quiz on Climate; Begin Economic Principles

Basic Economic Concepts:

W Feb. 10 Economic Principles – supply and demand, marginal analysis

F Feb. 12 Production Economics - induced technological innovation

M Feb 15 President’s Day – U.S. President’s role in agriculture

**W Feb. 17 Regional Specialization – Ricardo – the theory
*First Group Paper Assignment***

F Feb. 29 Regional Specialization – working through examples

**M Feb. 22 Trade Issues – why there are barriers – fear of protection
*First Group Paper Due***

W Feb. 24 Economic Fallout - balance of payments, value of the dollar, etc.

F Feb. 26 Exam covering everything so far

Food Production, Technology and Government Policy in the US:

**M Feb. 29 U.S. Agriculture – diversity of climate and resources
*Second Group Paper Assignment***

W Mar. 2 Historical background (Vid) – role of technological change

**F Mar. 4 Issues (Vid) - nature and purpose of agricultural policy
*Second Group Paper Due***

**M Mar. 7 Drivers of US agriculture – today’s farming
(“Farmland” film)**

Japan; Agricultural Modernization and Industrial Development:

W Mar. 9 Quiz on U.S. agriculture/history/technology – Begin Japanese history

F Mar. 11 Nature of Japanese development – slides and integration exercise

SPRING BREAK

M Mar. 21 Japan - growth pattern, trade and policy

W Mar. 23 Japan continued:

Current Global Resource and Economic Issues

F Mar. 25 Global Resource Issues – oil, minerals, land, and oceans.

M Mar. 28 Global Economic Issues – European problems, etc.

W April 30 Global Economic Issues – exchange rates, trade, employment, etc.

F April 1 Exam covering U.S., Japan, and Global Issues

Demography and its issues

**M April 4 Demography and Population - as a world issue (vid)
*Third Group Paper Assignment***

W April 6 Demography, Continued

**F April 8 Demography, Continued
*Third Group Paper Due***

Resource and Food Issues

**M April 11 Global resources for food production; land, water, climate,
*Fourth Group Paper Assignment***

W April 13 Resources & Climate, Cont. and food security

**F April 15 Food Security -
*Fourth Group paper Due***

M April 18 Ensuring food for the future? – What is to be done?

W April 20 Quiz – Demography, Resources and Food – start water availability, Etc.

Water Resource Issues:

F April 22 Property rights and common resource water issues

- M April 25 Water quality and sustainability**
- W April 27 Sustainability Issues; carrying capacity & dynamic resource constraints**
- F April 29 Class (and evening) review sessions**