

SYLLABUS: AG ECON 250
Spring Semester 2018
10:30-11:20AM, M.W.F. in Krannert G-16
Prof. Otto Doering
KRAN 569

M Jan. 8 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. 10 Resource Dependency of Civilizations (Plow that Broke the Plains – video)

F Jan 12 History of Agriculture and its development in Europe

M Jan 15 *Martin Luther King Day*

W Jan. 17 Agricultural History, Continued

F Jan. 19 Agricultural History – Location Theory (Von Thunen & Erie Canal Vid)

M Jan. 22 Quiz on History, etc.; Begin Climate - Temperature

W Jan. 24 Utilizing Knowledge Resources – When is a fact a fact? (Prof. Howard)

Climate/Weather and the Geography of its Impacts:

F Jan. 26 Climate Continued – precipitation, capacity to hold water & climatic regions

M Jan. 29 Climate - effects on agriculture and resources – Rain & Temperature Distrib.

W Jan. 31 Climate Change – the science behind it & the future (Prof. Chavas)

F Feb. 2 Climate Change Projections - alternative policies & economic issues

M Feb. 5 Quiz on Climate; Begin Economic Principles

Basic Economic Concepts:

W Feb. 7 Economic Principles – supply and demand, marginal analysis

- F Feb. 9 Production Economics - induced technological innovation**
- M Feb 12 Regional Specialization – Ricardo, the theory**
- W Feb. 14 Regional Specialization – working through examples**
First Group Paper Assignment
- F Feb. 16 Trade Issues – why there are barriers – fear of protection**
- M Feb. 19 President’s Day – U.S. President’s role in agriculture & resources**
First Group Paper Due
- W Feb. 21 Economic Fallout - balance of payments, value of the dollar, etc.**
- F Feb. 23 Exam covering everything so far**

Food Production, Technology and Government Policy in the US:

- M Feb. 26 U.S. Agriculture – diversity of climate and resources**
Second Group Paper Assignment
- W Feb. 28 Historical background (Vid) – role of technological change**
- F Mar. 2 Issues (Vid) - nature and purpose of agricultural policy**
Second Group Paper Due
- M Mar. 5 Drivers of US agriculture – today’s farming**
(“Farmland” film)

Japan; Agricultural Modernization and Industrial Development:

- W Mar. 7 Quiz on U.S. agriculture/history/technology – Begin Japanese history**
- F Mar. 9 Nature of Japanese development – slides**

SPRING BREAK

- M Mar. 19 Japan - growth pattern, trade and policy**
- W Mar. 21 Japan continued:**

Current Global Resource and Economic Issues

- F Mar. 23** Global Resource Issues – oil, minerals, land, and oceans.
M Mar. 26 Global Economic Issues – strategic resources, etc.
W Mar. 28 Global Economic Issues – exchange rates, trade, employment, etc.
F Mar. 30 Exam covering U.S., Japan, and Global Issues

Demography and its issues – Professor Waldorf

- M April 2** Demography and Population - as a world issue (vid)
Third Group Paper Assignment
W April 4 Demography, Continued
F April 6 Immigration – causes/effects & benefits/costs
Third Group Paper Due

Resource and Food Issues

- M April 9** Global resources for food production; land, water, climate,
Fourth Group Paper Assignment
W April 11 Resources & Climate, Cont. and food security
F April 13 Food Security - (Prof. Ejeta)
Fourth Group paper Due
M April 16 Ensuring food for the future? – What is to be done?
W April 18 Quiz – Demography, Resources and Food – start water availability, Etc.

Water Resource Issues:

- F April 20** Property rights and common resource water issues
M April 23 Water quality and sustainability
W April 25 Sustainability Issues; carrying capacity & dynamic resource constraints
F April 27 Review Class (and evening) review sessions