

SYLLABUS: AG ECON 250
Spring Semester 2019
10:30-11:20AM, M.W.F. in Krannert G-16
Prof. Otto Doering
KRAN 569

M Jan. 7 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. 9 Resource dependency of civilizations (Plow that Broke the Plains – video)

F Jan 11 History of agriculture and its development in Europe

M Jan 14 Agricultural history, Continued

W Jan. 16 Agricultural history – Location theory (Von Thunen & Erie Canal Vid)

F Jan. 18 Quiz on history, etc.; begin climate - Temperature

M Jan. 21 *Martin Luther King Holiday*

Climate/Weather and the Geography of its impacts:

W Jan. 23 Climate Continued – precipitation, capacity to hold water & climatic regions

F Jan. 25 Climate – effects on agriculture and resources – rain & temperature Distrib.

M Jan. 28 The science behind climate change and future paths (Prof. Chavas)

W Jan. 30 Climate projections, adaptations, alternative policies & economic issues

F Feb. 1 Utilizing knowledge resources – when is a fact a fact? (Prof Howard)

M Feb. 4 Quiz on climate; Begin economic principles

Basic Economic Concepts:

W Feb. 6 Economic principles – supply and demand, marginal analysis

- F Feb. 8 Production economics - induced technological innovation
- M Feb 11 Regional specialization – Ricardo, the theory
- W Feb. 13 Regional specialization – working through examples
First Group Paper Assignment
- F Feb. 15 Trade issues – why there are barriers – fear of protection?
- M Feb. 18 President’s Day – U.S. President’s role in agriculture & resources
First Group Paper Due
- W Feb. 20 Economic fallout - balance of payments, value of the dollar, etc.
- F Feb. 22 Exam covering everything so far

Food Production, Technology and Government Policy in the US:

- M Feb. 25 U.S. Agriculture – diversity of climate and resources
Second Group Paper Assignment
- W Feb. 27 Historical background (Vid) – role of technological change
- F Mar. 1 Issues (Vid) - nature and purpose of agricultural policy
Second Group Paper Due
- M Mar. 4 Drivers of US agriculture – today’s farming
(“Farmland” film)

Japan; Agricultural Modernization and Industrial Development:

- W Mar. 6 Quiz on U.S. agriculture/history/technology – Begin Japanese history
- F Mar. 8 Nature of Japanese development – slides

SPRING BREAK

- M Mar. 18 Japan - growth pattern, trade and policy
- W Mar. 20 Japan continued:

Current Global Resource and Economic Issues

- F Mar. 22** Global resource issues – oil, minerals, land, and oceans.
- M Mar. 25** Global economic issues – strategic resources, etc.
- W Mar. 27** Global economic issues – exchange rates, trade, employment, etc.
- F Mar. 29** Exam covering U.S., Japan, and Global Issues

Demography and its issues – Professor Waldorf

- M April 1** Demography and population - as a world issue (vid)
Third Group Paper Assignment
- W April 3** Demography, Continued
- F April 5** Immigration – causes/effects & benefits/costs
Third Group Paper Due

Resource and Food Issues

- M April 8** Global resources for food production; land, water, climate,
Fourth Group Paper Assignment
- W April 10** Resources & climate, Cont. and food security (Colloquium?)
- F April 12** Food Security – what is to be done?
Fourth Group paper Due
- M April 15** Quiz – demography, resources for food and food scarcity. Start water

Water Resource and Sustainability Issues:

- W April 17** The water availability conundrum
- F April 19** Property rights and common resource water issues
- M April 22** Water quality and sustainability – sustainability issues
- W April 24** Sustainability issues; carrying capacity & dynamic resource constraints
- F April 26** Review class (and evening) review sessions