

Course Syllabus

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change during the semester. Please check this syllabus on a regular basis for any changes.

Department : Agriculture
Course Title : The Agriculture Industry
Section Name : AGRI 1231
Start Date : Fall 2012
End Date :
Modality : Face to Face
Credits :

Instructor Information

Name : R. Mikel Lemons
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Course Description

An introduction to the basic components of the agricultural industry in the United States with a special consideration for the changing economic focus of the equine industry. (SCANS 1)

Prerequisites/Corequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Scans

(SCANS 1)

Course Objectives

LEARNING OUTCOMES: After completion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate competency in:

1. Understanding the role and importance of agriculture in our society.
2. The different systems and careers available in the field of agriculture.
3. Creating a resume for a future career in the agriculture field.
4. Writing a cover letter to prospective employers in the field of agriculture.
5. Interviewing with possible employers.
6. Understanding Agribusiness as a career.

CLASS ACTIVITIES: Participation in class discussions and group activities are mandatory. Test questions will be taken from notes of the class lectures, textbook and handouts for notebook entry. The class will take field trips to agribusinesses and listen to lectures from persons involved in the agribusiness. Students will design a mock agribusiness proposal with a financial plan suitable to borrow money from an agricultural lender. A resume and cover letter will also be required. Students will assemble a notebook of all handouts, business plan, resume and cover letter, and related materials used in the course.

Special Needs

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432- 335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Class participation makes AGRI 1231 work. Attendance is required. Absences will have a direct impact on your grade. If you are going to be late or absent for any reason, call and let me know why.

Expectations for Engagement – Face to Face Learning

To help make the learning experience fulfilling and rewarding, the following Expectations for Engagement provide the parameters for reasonable engagement between students and instructors for the learning environment. Students and instructors are welcome to exceed these requirements.

Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Instructors

1. As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will

- provided my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;
 - respond to all messages in a timely manner through telephone, email, or next classroom contact; and,
 - notify students of any extended times that I will be unavailable and provide them with alternative contact information (for me or for my supervisor) in case of emergencies during the time I'm unavailable.
2. As an instructor, I understand that my students will work to the best of their abilities to fulfill the course requirements. In order to help them in this area, I will
 - provide clear information about grading policies and assignment requirements in the course syllabus, and
 - communicate any changes to assignments and/or to the course calendar to students as quickly as possible.
 3. As an instructor, I understand that I need to provide regular, timely feedback to students about their performance in the course. To keep students informed about their progress, I will
 - return classroom activities and homework within one week of the due date and
 - provide grades for major assignments within 2 weeks of the due date or at least 3 days before the next major assignment is due, whichever comes first.

Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Students

1. As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will
 - attend the course regularly and line up alternative transportation in case my primary means of transportation is unavailable;
 - recognize that the college provides free wi-fi, computer labs, and library resources during regular campus hours to help me with completing my assignments; and,
 - understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my personal computer equipment or internet service is unreliable.
2. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to,
 - missing class when a major test is planned or a major assignment is due;
 - having trouble submitting assignments;
 - dealing with a traumatic personal event; and,
 - having my work or childcare schedule changed so that my classroom attendance is affected.
3. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will
 - seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;
 - ask questions if I don't understand; and,
 - attend class regularly to keep up with assignments and announcements.

Required Readings/Materials

There are no required text books or reading materials

Course Requirements (Lectures, Assignments and Assessments)

Summary of Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
History of the Agriculture Industry	Power Point presentation notes	Notes	Notebook entry
The 4 F's of Agriculture	paper		Week three
My lifeline	paper	Students will develop a paper and a lifeline drawing projecting their future.	Week four
My business idea	five pages	One page describing their business idea	Week five
My legal plan	One page	Description of the legal plan for the business	Week six
My Financial Plan	Three pages	Description of equipment and labor needed to develop a business	Week 10
My loans	Paper	Description of the different loans and when they will be retired from business profits.	Week 14
Notebook	All required papers		At final exam

Grading Policy

GRADING SYSTEM:

EXAM 1	100 PTS
EXAM 2	100 PTS
EXAM 3	100 PTS
EXAM 4	100 PTS
FINAL EXAM	100 PTS

GRADING SCALE:

A	90% TO 100%
B	80% TO 90 %
C	70% TO 80 %
D	60% TO 70 %
F	BELOW 60%