AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS 250
THE ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF WORLD FOOD AND RESOURCES

Lectures: M-W-F 10:30 to 11:20am Wetherill 320

Office hours: M-W-F 11:30 – 12:30 IPIA-AG and by appointment, International Programs in Agriculture, Room 26 615 W. State Street West Lafayette, IN 47907 Phone: 496-6262, e-mail: afernan@purdue.edu

On Line Hours M-T-W-Th-F from 21:00 to 22:00 hours

Readings: Readings for selected weeks will be available on-line

Course Description

AGEC 250 provides an international and multidisciplinary perspective on food security and resources. Case studies that represent different regions of the world will be the focus of the course. The case studies, discussed in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, will help students gain knowledge and understanding of regional variations of food security and resources, sustainable development and economic growth throughout the world. In addition, separate segments will deal with various components influencing food security. These include segments on the physical environment and global climate change, economic systems and global trade, and social and demographic changes. Student performance will be evaluated based on three quizzes, one written assignment, and a final exam.
Expected Student Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students shall be able to:

- Apply the tools of social sciences to critical examination of the diversity of contemporary social, cultural, political, demographic and economic global issues.
- Differentiate between facts and opinions.
- Evaluate the diverse perspectives about global issues.
- Use communication tools, such as the scientific method as it is applied to social sciences writing, and information technology such as the World Wide Web and the Internet to explore global political and economic transformation.
- See herself/himself as citizen in a global community.
- Summarize and propose potential solutions to contemporary global problems.

Course Policies

1. There will be three quizzes, each worth 10 percent of the final grade; one written assignment which is worth 30 percent. There will be a final exam worth 30 percent of the final score. This exam will be comprehensive. A good understanding of lectures and readings will be essential to do well on written assignment, quizzes and exam. Class attendance and informed participation will count for 10 percent of your grade.

2. Attendance is required. Regular attendance (no more than 3 missed lectures) will count as extra credit (plus 2 percentage points).

3. Written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates specified in the syllabus. Late assignments will receive a penalty.

4. Exam and quizzes must be taken at the time specified in the syllabus. Exceptions to this rule are only made in cases of illness or other severe circumstances. It is the responsibility of the student to provide verification. Students failing to do so will not be given the opportunity to take the exam at some other time, and will receive a failing grade (zero points).

5. If I see a cell phone or PDA during an examination, you will be asked to leave the room and immediately given a grade of F for that exam.
All university rules regarding student conduct and ethical behavior apply. These can be found here:  
http://www.purdue.edu/odos/aboutodos/academicintegrity.php

6. In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor’s control. I will post such changes on the class web page and will send an email to your @purdue.edu account. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO READ YOUR @PURDUE.EDU ON A FREQUENT BASIS

Evaluation

Quizzes 30%
Written Assignment 30%
Final Exam 30%
Class Participation 10%

A = 90-100%
B = 82-89%
C = 75-81%
D = 65-74%
F = 64% and below

Course Outline

Week 1
Aug 23  Introduction: course overview and policies
Aug 27  Pieces of the global system: population, food and resources, environment, global population growth
Readings: Bill McKibben, A Special Moment in History, Please read Parts I, II and III;
Jared Diamond, The Ends of the World as We Know Them
**Week 2**

Aug 30  Demographic transition
Sep 3   Population composition and population pyramids. Thomas Robert Malthus and the neo-Malthusians
Visit by Professor Brigitte Waldorf

**Readings:** J. Kluger *The Big Crunch*

**Week 3**

Sep 6   No Classes: **Labor Day**
The debate on sustainability

**Readings:** Overview of Work on People and Sustainability;
Some Figures to Ponder from UNCTAD

Sep 10  *1st Quiz*

**Week 4**

Sep 13  *Poverty, hunger, food security:*

Sep 17  *FAO’s Special Program on Food Security*

**Readings:** UN Report
Report on the Millennium Development Goals/Chart
Amartya Sen, as discussed by Sakiko Fukuda-Parr in,
Sen’s Concept of Human Development

**Week 5**

Sep 20  Recent examples of food insecurity, LDCs
Sep 24  Food security responses in crisis Situations

**Readings:** USAID Report, May 2009
Food Insecurity: How do we respond?;

**Week 6**

Sep 27  Health, mortality, and the epidemiological transition
Health issues in Developed and Developing Countries

**Readings:** Abdel R. Omran, *A Theory of Epidemiological Transition*

Oct 1   *2nd Quiz*

**Week 7**

Oct 4   More than Income per capita

**Due Oct 6: First Part of Written Assignment**
Oct 8  Human Development Index (HDI) and its components  
Readings: UNDP Human Development: Origins  
Human Development Indices  
UNDP Report by Richard Black and Jon Sward  
Migration, Poverty Reduction Strategies and Human Development

Week 8
Oct 11  No class: October Break  
Oct 15  HDI Rankings – What do they tell us about development, growth and poverty?  
Readings: Country Ranking by HDI; Jeffery D. Sachs, Can Extreme Poverty Be Eliminated?

Week 9
Oct 18  Case study: Reducing child mortality in Chile  
Oct 22  Case study: Fertility decline in Mexico and Turkey  
Rural to urban migration, displacement, fleeing food shortages

Week 10
Guest lectures on Oct 25 and Oct 27  
Oct 25  Case study: Mexico, migration, and maquiladoras  
Oct 27  Case study: Closing Europe’s borders?  
Oct 29  3rd Quiz

Week 11
Nov 1  Guest Lectures on Nov. 1st, Nov. 3, and Nov. 5  
Nov 5  Brain drain - migration of the highly educated to the EU and the US

Week 12
Nov 8  Globalization and Global institutions  
Nov 12  Globalization and trade: key concepts  
Due: 2nd Part of Written Assignment

Week 13
Nov 15  Climate change  
Nov 19  Desertification and food security

Week 14
Nov 22  Adaptation to climate change in agriculture  
Nov 26  Nov 24 and Nov 26: No classes: Thanksgiving Break
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<th>Week 15</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 29</td>
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<td>The Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>Dec 3</td>
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<td>Critical Review</td>
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<th>Week 16</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 6</td>
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<td>Case Studies: Sub-Saharan Africa.</td>
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<td>Dec 10</td>
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<td>Case Studies: Asia</td>
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<td><em>Comprehensive Final Exam TBA</em></td>
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