Course: AGRI 494 - Contemporary Agricultural Issues

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing.

Term: Spring 2009

Time: 9:35-10:55 TR

Location: EST 248

Instructor: Dr. Becky Gilfillen, EST 256
745-5970 (office), 843-4083 (home)
becky.gilfillen@wku.edu

Office hours: I have an open-door policy, however if you would like to request a specific appointment time that is fine as well.

Tentative Course Topics (not in order):

- Population Growth and Sustainability
- Biotechnology in Food Production
- Pollution/Animal Waste Management
- Water Resources and Rights
- Food Quality, Safety, and Security
- Organic Farming and Foods
- Climate Change and Global Warming
- Agricultural Globalization and Trade
- Animal Welfare/Rights
- Large Scale Agricultural Production
- Tobacco (MSA + Buyout)
- Privacy Issue in Agriculture
- Other topics as time permits

Grading Scale:

90-100% = A (405 points)  
80-90% = B (360 points)  
70-80% = C (315 points)  
60-70% = D (270 points)  
<60% = F (<270 points)

Grade Calculation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Assignments</th>
<th>Point value (each)</th>
<th>Total points per category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Group Work</td>
<td>12-15</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-Class Group Work(^1,2)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/ Involvement</td>
<td>continuous</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total points</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>450</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Final Exam – Tuesday, May 12\(^{th}\) (10:30-12:30)

1 = Groups will be responsible for finding articles in the New York Times each week that relate to current Agricultural Issues. (These papers will be provided for you by the New York Times). These articles will be put in a scrapbook with a summary. These will be due on May 5\(^{th}\).

2 = Each group will be responsible for making an advertisement. More details on this later.

1 = Groups will be responsible for finding articles in the New York Times each week that relate to current Agricultural Issues. (These papers will be provided for you by the New York Times). These articles will be put in a scrapbook with a summary. These will be due on May 5\(^{th}\).

2 = Each group will be responsible for making an advertisement. More details on this later.
Class policies:

1. Make-up exams and group projects will **only** be given in extreme situations, such as sickness with a doctor’s note, court notice, death in the family, college club trip, etc. All other excuses will be invalid if not discussed and approved by the instructor beforehand.

2. Due to the discussion nature of AGRI 494, attendance is essential to your success in the class. This will be noted in your participation grade if absence or talking is excessive.

3. Cell phones must be turned off during class (unless consent is given by the instructor in special circumstances). The instructor reserves the right to penalize the student’s class grade for excessive problems of this nature.

4. Class participation is encouraged; however, your participation should be limited to verbally addressing the class with your thoughts/opinions/etc. and **not addressing** your neighbor. In other words, don’t attempt to use this class as a social hour.

5. Don’t expect extra credit opportunities at the end of the semester - there will be no such opportunities. Any extra credit opportunities will occur in class.

6. Be open to new ideas and respect the ideas of others. Don’t be afraid to voice your opinion - it counts as much as anyone else! Realize however, that your opinion may be challenged (by another class member or myself) so try not to spout out just anything that comes to mind which includes **No swearing!! @@@#%*!**

7. Clean up after yourself! Whatever you bring into the room either take it with you or deposit it into the trash can.

8. Cheating will **not** be tolerated. Definitions of cheating are follow, but are not limited to these acts alone.

   **Plagiarism** - To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one’s own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of students must be their own. Students must give the author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism. *(From WKU Student and Faculty Handbook)*

   **Cheating** - No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking an examination or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment, or other project that is submitted for purposes of grade determination. *(From WKU Student and Faculty Handbook)*

   **Disposition of Offenses** - Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the University Disciplinary Committee through the Office of the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary sanctions. Students who believe a faculty member has dealt unfairly with them in a situation involving alleged academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure. *(From WKU Student and Faculty Handbook)*

9. Please come and see me as soon as you have any problems with this class.

10. In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in GCC 101 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center.
    Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.