

**ALDR/AFST/LACS 4710/6710**  
**International Agricultural Development**

**Fall 2008 Syllabus**

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**Office hours:** By appointment.

**Course Description:**

This course explores critical issues in international and global agricultural development. International development programs are described and studied with an interdisciplinary focus, with emphasis on the analysis of factors affecting cross-cultural communication, agricultural extension and education, diffusion of innovations, and change. Case studies concentrate on the developing world.

Course dynamics integrate the subject matter with activities that will empower students to develop a global understanding and the leadership and communication skills so needed and valued in today's global workplace.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to do the following:

1. Describe and discuss limits to the global food, population, agricultural, and environmental situation;
2. Summarize research on international agricultural development. List and describe institutions serving agriculture at the global level;
3. Analyze problems, factors, and barriers affecting agricultural development around the world;
4. Outline the effects of regional culture, language, economics, religion, and politics on regional agricultural development, human resource development, and agricultural extension and education programs;
5. Describe the transfer of technology in agriculture and discuss the lessons learned in past programs. Propose steps to take to minimize the unanticipated and unintended consequences of development. Analyze situations and problems faced by agricultural advisors in developing nations;
6. Debate major issues in international cooperation and agricultural development. Discuss the interdisciplinary nature of agricultural development;
7. Identify characteristics of successful agricultural development projects. Critique and propose improvements to development projects; and
8. Evaluate agricultural development literature.

**Course Requirements:**

The use of the course WebCT page is **required** for all students ([webct.uga.edu](http://webct.uga.edu)):

- ♦ Students will be able to access class materials, assignments, readings, discussion threads, and lesson presentations through the web page.
- ♦ If you have “technology” problems with WebCT, call the EITS help desk (706) 542 3106.
- ♦ Students should prepare their assignments as word (\*.doc) or rich text format (\*.rtf) documents, and submit them as an attachment through the assignment tool of the course web page, before the corresponding deadline.
- ♦ Late submissions will be accepted, but penalized with a deduction of twenty percent of the assignment grade for each day the assignment is late.

APA Format: Students are required to document all materials used to prepare their assignments (with proper use of quotes, citations, references, bibliography, etc.) using APA.

## 1. On-time attendance, informed participation in class

**Students are required to attend, on time, all classes**, and participate in class activities and discussions. Given the course dynamics, the nature of teaching strategies, and the type of work that we will be doing, attendance and active participation are necessary, and will be evaluated.

Class grade will be affected by lack of attendance: For example, students attending late or missing 3 classes and not “making them up,” will lose a full letter grade in their final class grade). If absences are excused and students “make the class up,” no deductions will be made. Partial letter grades may also be deducted if a student is disruptive or does not participate in class activities and discussions.

### **Excused absences “make up” policy**

In the case of **excused** absences (and only in the case of excused absences), if you do not want to lose attendance and participation points, this is what you need to do:

1. Read the class notes for the day (posted by other students in the class). Discuss with **several** classmates what was done in class (content presented, activities, discussions, etc.) and study all posted and class materials. Please note that you need to discuss with (and learn from) **your classmates** what was done in class, **not with/from Dr. Navarro**;
2. Write a 2-3 page paper expanding and improving the information discussed in class, giving Dr. Navarro ideas and documentation on how to better address the class topics next time. The paper should have at least three new references. Please note that the assignment is not supposed to be a summary of what we did in class, but a reflection regarding how the class could be improved, what could be done to better cover the issues discussed in class, what additional content could be covered, and what references would enrich the literature presently being used by Dr. Navarro;
3. Submit your “make up” paper through your private discussion thread with Dr. Navarro in WebCT (not the e-mail, the private discussion thread!);
4. All “make up” papers should be submitted at least ten days before the end of classes. Any “make up” paper submitted later than that will not be accepted;
5. Complete in-class assignments (if any);
6. Have all the assignments submitted on time. Not coming to class is NOT an excuse for late submission of assignments;
7. If you missed a mini-test on the day of your excused absence, this mini-test will be dropped as your “lower-grade” mini-test.

## 2. Weekly assignments, posted class notes, case studies, and in-class exercises

### **Weekly assignments**

Weekly assignments will be given in most weeks to all students, and will be posted in the assignment tool of the course WebCT page. In most cases, the objective of these assignments is to prepare the students for better understanding of lessons, case studies, and readings, and to promote active and informed participation in class discussions. Some weekly assignments are short papers, others involve preparing a 5 minute presentation to the class about a specific topic. Timely completion is, therefore, necessary. Late submissions will be accepted, but will be penalized with a deduction of twenty percent of the assignment grade for each day the assignment is late.

### **Posted class notes**

Each student will be designated as note taker for some classes during the semester. For these days, the student will need to take notes and post the notes in the Class Notes discussion thread. This thread will help absent students make up for their excused absences, and will help everyone review the class lessons.

## 3. Group projects

We will have several group assignments. All students will be required to contribute to these assignments, both during class time and out of class. Be advised that the group project grade will include a peer review grade.

## 4. Individual term project and presentation

Each student will complete and submit a term project. To allow for flexibility and to best address the needs and interests of each student, the content, format, and requirements of these projects will be determined by Dr. Navarro, individually with each student. After completion of the term project, the student and Dr. Navarro will decide how and when the project will be presented in class.

## 5. Mini-tests, mid-term and/or final examination

### Mini-tests (over readings, class materials, presentations, etc.)

Several mini-tests covering reading materials and class presentations and discussions will be administered throughout the semester. Completion is required and will be graded. Students will be allowed to drop the mini-test with lower grade.

### Mid-term and/or final examination

Students will either complete both a mid-term and a final examination, or just a final examination. The decision will be made depending on course dynamics, and students will know with at least two weeks notice whether or not they have a mid-term.

## 6. Additional assignment for graduate students

Graduate students and honors option students will be required to complete an additional assignment that will only be graded on a Pass/Fail basis and will not count toward the final course grade

Summary of course requirements	Percentage of total class grade
1. On-time attendance, informed participation in class	Required
2. Weekly assignments, posted class notes, case studies, in-class exercises	45%
3. Group projects	10%
4. Individual term project and presentation	15%
4. Tests (mini-tests, mid-term, and/or final examination)	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Guidelines for Determining Course Grade:

This course is graded using the + and – system, the grade breakdown is as follows:

A-F System	0-100% scale	0-4 System equivalent
A	= 94-100%	4.0
A-	= 90-93.99%	3.7
B+	= 87-89.99%	3.3
B	= 84-86.99%	3.0
B-	= 80-83.99%	2.7
C+	= 77-79.99%	2.3
C	= 74-76.99%	2.0
C-	= 70-73.99%	1.7
D	= 60-69.99%	1.0
F	= 0-59.99%	0

A NOTE regarding Incomplete (class grade I): In the past, some students have asked for an incomplete in the class because they had not been able to finish all the requirements for the class during the semester. While I try to offer flexibility, class requirements are expected to be completed within the semester. Under very special circumstances, student requests for an incomplete will be considered, but the maximum grade that students will be able to get in the class after an incomplete will be a B.

**Academic Honesty:** *All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work*

**Syllabus changes:** *The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

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**Fall 2008 Tentative Calendar**

Date	International Agricultural Development Class Topic
Aug 19	Introductions
Aug 21	Agriculture and the Millennium Development Goals
Aug 26	Agriculture and the MDGs (continued)
Aug 28	International Agricultural Development Mind Map
Sept 2	Green Revolution
Sept 4	Grey, Evergreen, and Gene Revolution
Sept 9	The three worlds of agriculture
Sept 11	Africa and subsistence agriculture
Sept 16	Agriculture and poverty reduction
Sept 18	Agriculture, environment, climate
Sept 23	Soil, soil erosion, salinization, and conservation
Sept 25	Water, water use, pollution, and conservation
Sept 30	Biodiversity, genetic resources, conservation
Oct 2	Extension education and gender and social issues
Oct 7	Guns, germs, and steel
Oct 9	Case study: The poultry meeting
Oct 14	Diffusion of innovations
Oct 16	Consequences of change
Oct 21	World Food Day Teleconference Recapitulation
Oct 23	International agricultural development organizations
Oct 28	Ag development endeavors: Education and microcredit
Oct 30	Agricultural development projects
Nov 4	Agriculture and health (HIV/AIDs, malaria, etc.)
Nov 6	Analysis and critique of ag development organizations
Nov 11	The interdisciplinary nature of agricultural development
Nov 13	Student Term Projects and Presentations
Nov 18	Student Term Projects and Presentations (continued)
Nov 20	Student Term Projects and Presentations (continued)
Nov 25	Fall Break, no classes
Nov 27	Fall Break, no classes
Dec 2	Focusing on solutions
Dec 4	Class summary