

ALDR/AFST/LACS 4710/6710
International Agricultural Development
Spring 2009 Syllabus (Draft)

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Class: MLC (Building 0081) Classroom 350. 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Office hours: MLC office hours: Tuesdays 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. (set appointment to determine location).
Four Towers Building office hours (room 105): 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, program development, diffusion of innovations, and change. Case studies concentrate on the developing world.

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. 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;
5. Debate major issues in international cooperation and agricultural development. Discuss the interdisciplinary nature of agricultural development;
6. Identify characteristics of successful agricultural development projects. Critique and propose improvements to development projects; and
7. Evaluate agricultural development literature.

Course Requirements:

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

- ♦ Students will be able to access class materials, assignments, readings, discussion threads, and lesson presentations through the class WebCT page.
- ♦ If you have “technology” problems with WebCT, call the EITS help desk (706) 542 3106.
- ♦ Students should prepare their assignments as word (*.doc), rich text format (*.rtf), or adobe acrobat (*.pdf) documents **only**, and submit them as an attachment through the assignment tool of the course WebCT page.
- ♦ Submit all assignments, **on time**, through the WebCT page assignment tool **only**: Some time-bound assignments will not be accepted late and the student will receive a zero for the assignment if the assignment is late. In other cases, the assignment will be accepted, but penalized with a deduction of twenty five percent (25%) of the assignment grade for each day the assignment is late.

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

1. On-time attendance

Students are required to attend, on time, all classes, and participate in class activities and discussions. Although there is not any percentage of the course grade assigned to attendance, it is an integral part of the learning process and therefore of your class grade. Failing to be in class on time will negatively affect your grade.

Because of uncontrolled circumstances and illnesses that cannot be verified, students are allowed to miss two scheduled class days without a direct attendance penalty (there will be, however, an indirect penalty if the student misses a quiz or an in-class assignment, because the student will not get credit for it). Class absences are not an excuse for lack of (or late) submission of assignments.

Absences exceeding these two days will have a direct effect on students' class grade: Students will lose 3.5% of the course grade per class missed.

Accommodations for students who have university excused absences (with proof) past the allowed two days will be worked out on an individual basis with the instructor. Students may discuss with the instructor some class "make-up" possibilities no later than a week after the absence. If the absence is known in advance (e.g., representing the university at an event), the student should discuss make-up possibilities with the instructor before the missed class.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning class, and it is your responsibility to sign the sheet every day that you are present.

2. In-class individual and group work; posted class notes; quizzes

In some classes, students will be asked to do some individual, group work, or respond to short quizzes, and then submit them at the end of the class. These will be graded.

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 keep up with the class, and will help everyone review the class lessons.

3. Weekly assignments

Some weeks you will be given a "weekly" assignment, posted in the assignment tool of the course WebCT page. In some 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. Timely completion is, therefore, necessary (see beginning of course requirements for a comment of grade penalty to late assignments).

4. Mid-term examination

The mid-term examination will cover mostly the reading assignments and will be mostly multiple choice.

5. Final examination

Final exam will cover the reading assignments given **after** the mid-term examination, as well as all materials presented and discussed during class all semester. This exam will have both multiple choice and short essay questions.

6. Additional assignment for graduate and honors option students

Graduate students and honors option students will be required to complete additional assignments that will only be graded on a Pass/Fail basis and will not count toward the final course grade. These assignments will be discussed with the students at the beginning of the semester.

Summary of course requirements	Percentage of total class grade
1. On-time attendance	Required (see description)
2. In-class individual and group work; posted class notes; quizzes	15%
3. Weekly assignments	55%
4. Midterm examination	10%
5. Final examination	20%
Total	100%

Text requirements:

Bornstein, D. (2007). *How to change the world: Social entrepreneurs and the power of new ideas*. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc. (make sure you get the paperback version, not the 2004 hardcover)

In addition, students will be able to access class materials, assignments, readings, discussion threads, and lesson presentations through the class WebCT page.

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

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.*

Tentative Class Schedule (Draft)

Date	Topic	Assignments and readings
Thursday, January 8 th	Introduction to International Agricultural Development Class introduction, syllabus	Note: Assignments are Due on that day before class starts
Tuesday, January 13 th	Millennium Development Goals and Agriculture	
Thursday, January 15 th	Introduction to agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa	Assignment: Personal Introduction
Tuesday, January 20 th (Final roll)	The State of the Rural Poor	Reading: MDGs and Agriculture
Thursday, January 22 nd	The First Green Revolution, the Second Green Revolution, and The Evergreen Revolution	Assignment: MDGs and Agriculture
Tuesday, January 27 th	Literature reviews/searches/databases	Reading: Food security: Sustainable food production in Sub-Saharan Africa (Amalu)
Thursday, January 29 th	Issues in International Agricultural Development Mind Map	Reading: Second Green Revolution (Navarro) Assignment: Int Ag Dev Mind Map
Tuesday, February 3 rd	Multidisciplinary nature of agricultural development Potato case studies	
Thursday, February 5 th	Multidisciplinary nature of agricultural development Soil, water, and environment case studies	Reading: Conquest of the land through seven thousand years (Lowdermilk), our good earth (NG), and Haiti Soil (NG), the last of the Amazon (NG)
Tuesday, February 10 th	International Agricultural Development and the Media	Assignment: Int Ag Dev and the Media
Thursday, February 12 th	Gender Issues	Reading: Gender Issues
Tuesday, February 17 th	Extension Education	Reading: Extension Education
Thursday, February 19 th	International Agricultural Development Bookmarks	Assignment: International Agricultural Development Bookmarks
Tuesday, February 24 th	Diffusion of innovations	
Thursday, February 26 th	Diffusion of innovations and indigenous knowledge	Reading: Diffusion of innovations
Tuesday, March 3 rd	Review	Assignment: How to Change the World

Thursday, March 5 th	Midterm Examination	
Tuesday, March 10 th	No Class	Spring Break
Thursday, March 12 th	No Class	Spring Break
Tuesday, March 17 th	Development initiatives: Microcredit	Reading: Microcredit
Thursday, March 19 th	Development initiatives and case study analysis	Assignment: Case study
Tuesday, March 24 th	Characteristics of Successful Development Projects	Reading: Christiansen
Thursday, March 26 th	Entrepreneurs/organizations and Agricultural Development	Reading: Entrepreneurs/organizations and agricultural development
Tuesday, March 31 st	Case study group discussion	Assignment: Create your own case study
Thursday, April 2 nd	Organizations addressing agriculture, science, and/or technology.	Reading: Organizations addressing agriculture, science, and/or technology.
Tuesday, April 7 th	Group discussion Characteristics of successful development projects, critique of organizations	Assignment: Characteristics of successful development projects, critique of organizations
Thursday, April 9 th	World Trade and Ag Development (I)	
Tuesday, April 14 th	World Trade and Ag Development (II)	Reading: World Trade and Agricultural Development
Thursday, April 16 th	The Three Worlds of Agriculture Policy Briefs – governance, growth, input subsidies, public investment, and trade	Reading: The three worlds of agriculture Reading: Policy Briefs – governance, growth, input subsidies, public investment, and trade
Tuesday, April 21 st	Focusing on Solutions	
Thursday, April 23 rd	Focusing on Solutions	Assignment: Focusing on solutions
Tuesday, April 28 th	Class Summary. Review	Last day of class
April 30 th	No Class	Monday Classes in Effect
May 4 th - 8 th	Final Exam	To be scheduled by UGA Office of the Registrar