

AGEC 315: Agriculture in an Emerging Economy

Course Information

Class days: Tuesdays

Class times: 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Course website: <http://www.montana.edu/bekkerman/agec315s11.html>

Course Description

This course is intended to introduce students to issues relevant to agriculture within a global context. Students will learn about agricultural production, transportation, markets, and policies affecting domestic and international agricultural sectors. Specifically, this course will help provide a better understanding of how these issues affect agriculture in emerging economies.

Class Expectations

Successful completion of this course requires that students satisfy the following three criteria:

1. Complete a research paper on a topic relevant to Ukrainian agriculture. The topic may be commodity specific or more general, but it must integrate information relevant to both the science and economics related to the topic. For example, a research paper may examine the prevalence and costs associated with wheat diseases in Ukraine. Relevant due dates related to the research paper are provided in the course outline.
2. Attend and participate in every class session. If you know that you have an academically relevant scheduling conflict (e.g. job interview), you must let the instructors know *at least* one week in advance.
3. Prepare and present information related to a selected topic about Ukraine. Topics will be provided by the instructors and each student will choose to present information about one of these topics.

Class Schedule

The outline of topics and lecturers is provided below. Because time conflicts may occur, some topics and lecturers may be rescheduled.

Course Outline		
Date	Topic	Speaker
January 18	Organizational overview	
January 25	World markets and related issues	V. Smith
February 1	Grain development and technologies	P. Bruckner
February 8	Issues and challenges of grain production inputs	J. Jacobsen
February 15	Logistics of international grain transport <i>Research paper topic due</i>	R. Owen (CHS)
February 22	Issues related to sugar production	B. Jacobsen
March 1	Dairy production, domestically and abroad	G. Duff
March 8	Issues related to horticultural production <i>Research paper outline due</i>	
March 22	Issues related to financing agricultural production	M. Watts
March 29	Economic issues in sugar and horticultural markets	G. Brester
April 5	Logistics of intra-national grain transport (Burlington Northern) <i>Research paper first draft due</i>	
April 12	Reflections on Follow the Grain, Chile	T. Fitzgerald
April 17	Student presentations	

Course Outline – Continued

Date	Topic	Speaker
April 22	Student presentations <i>Research paper final draft due</i>	
April 29	Student presentations	

Trip Schedule

The outline of dates and activities is provided below. Because time conflicts may occur, some changes may be made.

Trip Outline

Date	Location	Activity
May 9		– Depart Bozeman to Kiev
May 10 – 12	Kiev	– Overview of agriculture in Ukraine. – Role of agriculture in economic development, trade, international policies. – Issues related to WTO ascension and joining the EU. – Role of the World Bank in Ukrainian agriculture. – Issues related to agricultural finance in Ukraine. – Agricultural insurance in Ukraine: why, how, who, challenges. – Technological advances and information services. – Tour of Kiev.
May 13 – 14	Vinnitsia	– Overview of dairy operations. – Tour of dairy plant. – Tour of orchards and packing plant. – Visit and tour of wheat and sugar beet farms.
May 15	Odessa	– Travel to Odessa. – Tour Odessa.
May 16 – 17	Odessa	– Overview and tour of vegetable farms and processing facilities.

Course Outline – Continued

Date	Location	Activity
May 18		– Tour of CHS port facilities. – Discussion of issues including intra-national grain transport, grain export, domestic and trade policies, and challenges. – Tour Odessa. – Travel to Kiev. – Depart Kiev to Bozeman.
