SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

COURSE NUMBER: AGR 353                      CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. TITLE:

World Food, Agriculture, and Society

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide students with a basic understanding of various world agriculture systems that provide food. Analysis of the role of society, historical, environmental, technological, socio-economic, and political factors that affect world food will be addressed. The course will also include topics on the evolution of agriculture, technology and food trends over the world as it has been shaped by society, culture and world population growth. Specific issues on food poverty and malnutrition in developing countries, culture and food habits, climate changes impacting agriculture productions, and other constrains to world food production will be covered.

III. PURPOSE:

This course provides an overview of agriculture from a global perspective to make students aware of the world’s food and society, as well as the resource balance for population and natural resources.

The integration of the U.S. into the world food and global society is becoming an emerging issue. Agriculture is the largest industry providing food for the world, employing more than 1.3 billion people, and is perhaps the most widespread and profound human transformation of the earth. Consequently, international issues in the food system and global society are important to all of us regardless of where we may live and work. As stated by Norman Borlaugh “World peace will not – and cannot- be built on empty stomachs”, thus feeding the people of the world is important. This course addresses an overview of agriculture from a global perspective to make students aware of the world’s food and society, as well as the resource balance for population and natural resources.
IV. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

A. To provide an understanding of the importance of agriculture for world food production.

B. To understand the role of world’s society in food trends.

C. To understand how U.S. agriculture is related to agriculture and food production throughout the world.

D. To provide background on world situations which have shaped food production.

E. To evaluate the global constrains in agriculture and food productions.

V. **CONTENT OUTLINE:**

A. Overview of world food productions and agricultural systems
B. World population and population growth
C. Population trends and issues
D. Global food security and consumption trends
E. U.S. as a producer and consumer of food
F. Components of agricultural systems
G. Science, society and sustainable food systems
H. Other related topics

VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Lectures, audio-video presentations, study questions, and demonstrations lab and field activities.

VII. **FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:**

Weekly reading and assignment

VIII. **RESOURCES:**

Textbook on reserve, handouts, videos, posters, pictures.

IX. **GRADING PROCEDURES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three (one hour) Exams</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes and Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper/Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Grades in this course are assigned as follows:

- 90% = A
- 80% = B
- 70% = C
- 60% = D

No extra work may be done to raise an individual’s grade.

**X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Please refer to the most current copy of the *Murray State University’s Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin.*

**XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

(Adopted by the MSU Board of Regents)

Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person’s material as one’s own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers, or the presentation on unacknowledged material as if it were the student’s own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

NOTE: The School of Agriculture Faculty have adopted and implemented an Academic Honesty Policy in addition to the University Honesty Policy, which can be found in the current *Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin.* The policy sets guidelines regarding acts of dishonesty and the procedure to follow should an event occur. It is each Agriculture student’s responsibility to obtain and read a copy of this document. The School’s Academic Honesty Policy can be obtained by asking for a copy from any Agriculture Faculty member or the Secretary.

**XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES:**


ISBN: 9780827350274

*Outgrowing the Earth.* Lester R. Brown. Earth Policy Institute.

*Fast Food Nation: the Dark Side of the All-American Meal.* Eric Schlosser.

XIII. **PREREQUISITES:**

None

XIV. **STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:**

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Sabrina Y. Dial, Director of Equal Opportunity, Murray State University, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071-3318. Telephone: 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).

XV. **MSU SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE CELL PHONE POLICY**

The School of Agriculture recognizes that in today’s world cell phones are a familiar and often necessary form of communication for students.

It shall be the policy of the School that no cell phone usage shall be allowed in class and/or labs without the prior consent of the course instructor. This shall include verbal calling, incoming calls, email, text messaging, and use of cell phone calculators on tests and quizzes.

Cell phones must be kept off and out of sight (i.e. secured to a person’s belt or kept in a bag or purse away from desks and lab counters).

Should a student’s cell phone be visible, ring, or other form of unauthorized usage that is interruptive to the class or lab, the student may be asked to leave class and not return for that class/lab period.

Upon prior consent of the instructor, a student may obtain permission to have their phone on in case of an emergency or in critical family situations.

This policy also includes pagers and other electronic equipment such as blackberries and/or computers/laptops.