Department of Agriculture  
Stephen F. Austin State University  
AGD 400 Senior Seminar  
Spring 2016

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Course Description:  
This course is designed to provide the student with information needed for transition from the college environment to a professional career in the industry of agriculture. Specifically this course will address current trends shaping career opportunities, resume development, interviewing skills, research and development activities, professional organizations, personal investing and retirement planning, community development and service opportunities, and critical issues in facing agriculture.

Course Objectives  
Upon completion of this seminar, the student will be able to:  
1. develop and present a professional image  
2. apply leadership, problem solving, and decision making skills to agricultural issues  
3. develop a plan for continued growth in a professional career including service, development, and personal investing.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will demonstrate competence of technical subject matter areas in agriculture including plant and animal sciences, agricultural economics, and mechanized agriculture.  
2. The student will exhibit problem solving skills based on quantitative and analytical reasoning.  
3. The student will demonstrate effective communication skills  
4. The student will exhibit leadership and other interpersonal skills needed for career placement and advancement.

Course Content:  

I. Course Overview  
II. Trends and career opportunities in agriculture  
III. Development of resumes and cover letters
IV. Interviewing skills
V. Issues facing agriculture professionals
VI. Personal investing and retirement planning
VII. Service organizations and community development
VIII. Professionalism
IX. Graduate Studies

Course Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam (2 exams @ 100 points each)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1 covers materials covered through February 28.</td>
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<td>Exam 2 is comprehensive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resume and Cover Letter</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>350</strong></td>
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a. Total point equate to the following grades.

315 - 350 = A, 280 - 314 = B, 245 - 279 = C, 210 - 244 = D,
below 210 = F

Attendance Policy

Excused absences should be approved in advance when possible. 2 points will be deducted from your final grade for each unexcused absence you have in the class.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.
Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

**Acceptable Student Behavior**

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program http://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**Responsible use of technology:** It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties.
AGD 400
Tentative Class Calendar*
Spring 2014

January 22—Class Introduction
January 29—Careers and Placement resume and cover letter
February 5—Brandy Derouen: Rusk Building Room 333
February 12—Guest Speaker
February 19—Greg Nichols—Edward Jones
February 26—Miles McCall
March 4---The Professional Workplace
March 11---First exam
March 18—Spring break
March 25—Easter Break
April 1—Easter Break
April 8—Professionalism (Professional Dress and Codes of Conduct)
April 15—Graduate School
April 29—Issues Facing Agriculture—David Alders
May 6---Wrap Up
May 13----Final Exam

*Topics may shift in order of presentation based on speaker availability.