AGRON/ECON 496: TRAVEL COURSE

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, BUSINESS, AND TRADE IN AUSTRALIA

COURSE ADMINISTRATION

Term: Spring 2008

Classes: W 5:10-6:30 in 2026 Agronomy Hall

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Course Description:
The focus of this travel study program is to examine agricultural production, business, and trade in Australia from a comparative point of view with the United States. The course also discusses the history and culture of Australia. The course consists of class lectures and discussions, projects, and visits to farms and agribusinesses in Australia.

Course Objectives:
The course objective is to equip students with the knowledge and necessary skills to understand, interpret, and analyze issues pertinent to the relative advantages and disadvantages of the U.S. and Australia for producing, transporting, processing, marketing, and consuming major agricultural commodities, and their role in the global market.

Specific course objectives are to:
• Help students become familiar with the history, culture, geography, soils, agriculture, and economy of Australia.
• Assist students in understanding the nature of competition in the world market for agricultural products.
• Observe and participate first-hand in activities that focus on production, commercialization, processing and marketing of agricultural products in Australia.
• Study the ecological variability of Australia and how it contributes to agriculture and the economy.
• Learn about trade agreements that Australia is signatory to, and their impact on the country.
• Understand the relative advantages and disadvantages of agribusinesses in Australia and the U.S.

Learning Outcomes:
At the end of the program, students will:
• Be equipped with the knowledge and necessary skills to understand, interpret, and analyze issues pertinent to carrying out successful business between the U.S. and Australia.
• Know about agricultural production methods in Australia, as well as processing, marketing, and risk management of Australia’s major agricultural commodities and their distribution to significant global markets.
• Have a better understanding of trade agreements that Australia is signatory to, and their impact on the country.
• Be more aware of any similarities and differences between the U.S. and Australia's culture and society, and the role they play in business and trade.
Grading:
The final grade for the class will be calculated using the following weights:

A. Pre-trip fact sheet and oral summary  15%
B. Positive contribution and participation  20%
C. Trip report (due 5/2/08)   50%
D. Post-trip fact sheet and oral summary  15%

A detailed description of the graded areas is provided in a separate handout.

Individual Participation:
Students are required to attend all class meetings and be active learners. One excused absence will be allowed before points will be deducted under “positive contribution and participation.” Individual participation involves not only in-class participation but also professional behavior during the trip. For each meeting, each student is required to bring an informative and/or media clipping related to one of the topics to be covered in class. The article should relate to Australia. Each student should be prepared to give a brief summary to the class and answer questions on the article. During presentations, students are expected to take notes and ask questions.

Coursework:
The tentative schedule of classes is the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Introduction and background information. Information for international travelers (presentation by guest speaker Jodi Cornell). Assignment of dates for individual presentations by students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>General information about Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>Agricultural production in Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Australia’s general economy and Australia’s agricultural economic sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>Pre-trip student presentations by students. Safety information for international travelers (presentation by guest speaker Jodi Cornell).</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Pre-trip student presentations by students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Pre-trip student presentations by students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Pre-trip student presentations by students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Final preparation for trip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 13-24</td>
<td>Trip to Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>No formal meeting, consultations for student projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Post-trip student presentations by students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Post-trip student presentations by students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Post-trip student presentations by students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Post-trip student presentations by students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>Final meeting.</td>
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Additional Information:
- Successful completion of the course fulfills the international/multi-cultural requirement for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- News and other relevant course materials (e.g., syllabus, assignments, presentation topics and schedules, itinerary, project grades, etc.) will be posted on WebCT and on the course webpage (http://www.econ.iastate.edu/classes/econ496/lence/spring2008/). This should be the primary source of course information.
- If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Disability Resources (DR) office for information on appropriate policies and procedures. DR is located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076 (phone: 515-294-6624).