

AGRON/ECON 496: TRAVEL COURSE

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, BUSINESS, AND TRADE IN SPAIN

COURSE ADMINISTRATION

Term: Spring 2010

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

Instructors: Dr. Ebby Luvaga Dr. Tom Loynachan Dr. Sergio H. Lence
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Course Description:

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

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 Spain 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 Spain.
- 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 Spain.
- Study the ecological variability of Spain and how it contributes to agriculture and the economy.
- Learn about trade agreements that Spain is signatory to, and their impact on the country.
- Understand the relative advantages/disadvantages of agribusinesses in Spain 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 Spain.
- Know about agricultural production methods in Spain, as well as processing, marketing, and risk management of Spain's major agricultural commodities.
- Have a better understanding of trade agreements that Spain is signatory to.
- Be more aware of any similarities and differences between the U.S. and Spain'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 4/28/10)	50%
D. Post-trip fact sheet and oral summary	15%

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

Class Assignments and Individual Participation:

Students are required to attend all class meetings and be active learners. They are expected to take notes, ask questions, and contribute to the class discussions. 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.

In preparation for each class meeting, students are required to find and read an informative article or media clipping related to Spain and the week’s topic to be covered in class. After reading the article, prior to coming to class, students must type 2-3 questions to ask the speaker or other comments to add to the topics of discussion. In the case of pre-/post-trip presentations (i.e., on 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, and 4/21), prior to class students must read an article or media clip and type 2-3 questions or comments for one of the topics covered (if you are one of the presenters, you must choose a topic covered by somebody else). You must place your name on your questions, attach the article, and turn them in at the end of each class period (handwritten questions/comments will not be accepted).

Coursework:

The tentative schedule of classes is the following:

Date	Topic
January 13	Introduction and background information. Information for international travelers (presentation by guest speaker Jodi Cornell). Assignment of dates for individual presentations by students.
January 20	General information about Spain.
January 27	Agricultural production in Spain.
February 3	Spain's general economy and Spain's agricultural economic sector.
February 10	Pre-trip presentations by students. Safety information for international travelers (presentation by guest speaker Jodi Cornell).
February 17	Pre-trip presentations by students.
February 24	Pre-trip presentations by students.
March 3	Pre-trip presentations by students.
March 10	Final preparation for trip.
March 11-21	Trip to Spain.
March 24	No formal meeting, consultations for student projects.
March 31	Post-trip presentations by students.
April 7	Post-trip presentations by students.
April 14	Post-trip presentations by students.
April 21	Post-trip presentations by students.
April 28	Final meeting. Trip Report due.

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/spring2010/>). 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).