

## **AGRI 150: AGRICULTURE ORIENTATION**

---

### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

#### ***COURSE INFORMATION***

**AGRI 150: Agriculture Orientation** (31584), 2 credits, ONLINE, 1<sup>st</sup> 8 weeks – 8/25/25-10/17/25

Course Description: Seminar class that will discuss opportunities and issues in agriculture.

#### ***INSTRUCTOR***

Jessalyn Obenchain, Western Star Career and Technology Center 129, 701-774-4532  
jessalyn.obenchain@willistonstate.edu

Office Hours: MW 2-3PM, T 9-11AM, F 12-1PM

#### ***TEXTBOOK & MATERIALS***

Deeply Rooted: Unconventional Farmers in the Age of Agribusiness, Lisa M. Hamilton - ISBN: 9781582435862

Agriculture: A Very Short Introduction, Paul Brassley & Richard Soffe – ISBN: 9780198725961

#### ***STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES***

##### **INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES**

- 1.) Students will use reasoning skills to analyze and solve problems.

##### **PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

- 1.) Apply fundamental agricultural principles, practices, and technologies to the various agriculture sectors
- 2.) Apply agricultural business principles and policies to farm and ranch management
- 3.) Demonstrate practices of sustainable livestock and ranch production
- 4.) Demonstrate practices of sustainable crop and farm production
- 5.) Implement quality management practices in agriculture production
- 6.) Apply holistic ecosystem practices for sustainable land management
- 7.) Demonstrate leadership and career skills needed to be successful the agriculture industry

## **COURSE OUTCOMES**

- 1.) Overview all areas of agriculture, and further develop placement within this.
- 2.) Create agricultural resumes and cover letters.
- 3.) Learn how to apply for opportunities in agriculture, including internships and jobs.
- 4.) Identify possible problems in the future of agriculture, and address how this will affect the industry.

## **ASSESSMENT TASKS (FOR COURSE OUTCOMES)**

- 1.) Complete readings, questions, and problems demonstrating mastery of both concepts and process skills.
- 2.) Complete examinations demonstrating mastery of both concepts and process skills.

## **PROCESS SKILLS**

- Overview of the broad agricultural fields
- Diversified study in all agriculture disciplines
- Complete an agriculture-based resume and cover letter
- Understand how the agricultural industry differs from localized industries
- Identify current events in agriculture
- Create a better understanding for student placement within agriculture
- Advance student skill sets to enter the agriculture workforce

## **CONCEPTS & ISSUES**

- Introductory agriculture
- Contemporary issues in agriculture
- Agricultural internship and career opportunities
- Agricultural writing within the industry
- Exploratory agriculture studies
- Agricultural business standards

## ***ASSESSMENT PORTFOLIO***

Each degree seeking student is required to maintain an assessment portfolio on Blackboard for his/her time at Williston State College. For this class you should include your syllabus, evidence of completing learning outcomes, and a reflection paper of what you learned in this class.

## ***GRADING SYSTEM***

| <b>Required Assignments</b> | <b>Points</b> | <b>Percentage (%)</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Assignments (7)             | 50 x 7 = 350  | 39                    |
| Discussion Posts (7)        | 50 x 7 = 350  | 39                    |
| Final Portfolio             | 200           | 22                    |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>900</b>    | <b>100</b>            |

## ***GRADING BASIS***

| Letter | Percent |
|--------|---------|
| A      | =>90    |
| B      | =>80    |
| C      | =>70    |
| D      | =>60    |
| F      | <60     |

## ***ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION***

- Seven assignments and seven discussion posts will be assigned throughout the semester. These are to be written double-spaced in Times New Roman font, 12 pt. In the header, put the class and assignment label, the date, and your name; this is shown below:

AGRI 150 – Assignment #1

8-31-25

Your Name

- A weekly discussion post, of at least 200 words will be due every Thursday. By Sunday, you must respond to one classmate's post with two solid points.
  - Key Point: In your first introductory discussion post on Blackboard (in Week 1) write “I read the entire syllabus for AGRI 150, including the key point.” If you do not write this in your first discussion post, you will only receive half-credit.
- All assignments/discussion posts are to be turned in on Blackboard by the due date.
- All assignments are due one week after assigned. For each business day assignments are late, 20% will be deducted until the grades reaches 0%.**
- All answers can be found within the course material. Any answers that are “Googled” will not be given credit. If any outside sources are needed, the instructor will advise you where to find reputable information
- One final portfolio will be ongoing throughout the course. The project will include an Ag-based resume, cover letter, and an overview of your future goals and aspirations.
- More detailed guidance and rubrics will be provided for each of the assignments.

## ***SCOPE AND SEQUENCE OF THE COURSE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)***

| Week | Chapter                                                               | Assignment/Lab/Test                                                     |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Read INTRODUCTION<br>“Just a Farm Kid” Article                        | Discussion Post #1 – Introduction<br>Assignment #1 - Resume Rough Draft |
| 2    | Read TEXAS 1-3<br>1 - Soils                                           | Discussion Post #2 - Ch 1-3<br>Assignment #2 - Soils                    |
| 3    | Read TEXAS 4-7<br>1 – Crops and Farming<br>3, 4 – Inputs and Products | Discussion Post #3 – Ch 4-7<br>Assignment #3 – Crops and Farming        |
| 4    | Read NEW MEXICO 1-4<br>2 – Ranching and Livestock                     | Discussion Post #4 – Ch 1-4<br>Assignment #4– Livestock and Ranching    |

|   |                                                                                  |                                                                          |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   | 3, 4 – Inputs and Products                                                       |                                                                          |
| 5 | Read NEW MEXICO 5-8<br>5 – Agriculture as a Business                             | Discussion Post #5 – Ch 5-8<br>Assignment #5 – Agribusiness              |
| 6 | Read NORTH DAKOTA 1-4<br>6 - The Future of Agriculture -<br>Current Events in Ag | Discussion Post #6 – Ch 1-4<br>Assignment #6 – Current Events in Ag      |
| 7 | Read NORTH DAKOTA 5-7<br>Final Project/Portfolio                                 | Discussion Post #7 - Ch 5-7<br>Assignment #7 – Cover Letter Rough Draft  |
| 8 | Final Portfolio                                                                  | <b>Final Portfolio Complete – Cover Letter,<br/>Resume, Future Goals</b> |

## ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Williston State College is committed to providing equal access to students. If you have a disability which may impact your performance, attendance, or grades in this course that requires accommodations, you must first register with the WSC Accessibility Support Office. Please note that classroom accommodations cannot be provided until your instructors receive an Accommodations Form, signed by you and the Accessibility Support Office.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Last day to drop: 8-29-2025**
- **Last day to withdraw (with W): 9-30-2025**
- For important dates concerning holidays, last date to withdraw from class, etc., please visit the WSC catalog available on the website: [www.willistonstate.edu](http://www.willistonstate.edu).

## ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Take advantage of academic resources available to you at Williston State College:

- **Communication Lab:** Supplemental instruction is provided to assist students who are either having difficulty or desiring extra help with specific subjects. The Communication Lab assists with composition, writing, communication, and public speaking. The Communication Lab is located in the Fireside Lounge in the Learning Commons. Students can make appointments at [wsc.writinglab@willistonstate.edu](mailto:wsc.writinglab@willistonstate.edu).
- **Math Lab:** Supplemental instruction is provided to assist students who are either having difficulty or desiring extra help with specific subjects. The Math Lab assists with all math needs. The Math Lab is located in Stevens Hall Science Lounge.
- **Learning Commons:** It's not just the Library anymore. In addition to the normal library functions (book checkout, research assistance, etc.), the Learning Commons serves a number of other functions. In the Learning Common you can check out study rooms, check out graphing calculators, utilize computers and print school related materials. Technical support for your online courses is also available in the Learning Commons. For technical support please stop in the Learning Commons or call 701.774.4590 or email [wsc.extendedlearning@willistonstate.edu](mailto:wsc.extendedlearning@willistonstate.edu). For library support or questions call 701.774.4226.

- NetTutor: Web based service that provides on demand tutoring across a wide variety of subject areas. With NetTutor you can access live tutors, ask a question, and come back later for a response and/or submit written work for review. This program can be accessed through the NetTutor link in any WSC Blackboard course. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Extended Learning at [wsc.extendedlearning@willistonstate.edu](mailto:wsc.extendedlearning@willistonstate.edu).

## **STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Work submitted for this course must follow Student Academic Integrity as cited in the WSC Student Code of Conduct:

- Acts of cheating and plagiarism are prohibited. Cases of academic dishonesty may be treated as an academic matter or as a disciplinary matter at the discretion of the instructor.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment. It includes using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.
- Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own, with or without their consent, by incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgement. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition.
- Self-plagiarism is the use of one's own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously.
- Students may not use generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in any form to complete any course work without explicit permission from the instructor. If explicit permission is given by an instructor, through indication in the syllabus or in individual instructions for course activities/assignments, students must use AI in a responsible and ethical manner and attribute or cite appropriately. Any violation of this policy will be considered an act of academic dishonesty as outlined within the Williston State College Student Code of Conduct.
- The instructor may reflect the incident of academic dishonesty through the assignment of the student's grade in the course. If the student has a grievance related to this action, that grievance would be directed to the Chair of the department in which the course is housed.
- Alternatively, the instructor may refer the case as a disciplinary matter to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Vice President for Academic Affairs may refer the case to the Student Review Committee for action.

Breach of academic integrity may result in failure of the assignment, exam, and/or class.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- You are expected to read the relevant materials and participate in class discussions in a timely manner.
- You are expected to respect your fellow students and the instructor in online and on campus discussions.
- It is your responsibility to ask questions when you are uncertain about assignments or course materials.
- If you have questions concerning grades, you should contact the instructor immediately. You are responsible for checking Blackboard in a timely fashion to ensure that the grade recorded is your correct grade.

- It is your responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible if you are encountering any issues that would hinder your performance in this class.
- You are responsible for earning your grade (with the instructor making every effort to help you learn the material).
- If you are concerned about your grade, you should speak to the Instructor NO LATER than mid-term. No consideration will be given to request to adjust your grade at the end of the semester unless there is an error in calculations.

## **GRIEVANCE POLICY**

Occasionally, students are dissatisfied with some dimension of the course. In such cases, students should first schedule a meeting with the instructor. If the student and instructor cannot reach a satisfactory resolution, the student should schedule a meeting with the Chair of the Department. (See the Student Code of Conduct.)

## **TITLE IX**

Survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sexual harassment: please be aware that as an instructor, I am legally obligated to report all instances of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sexual harassment involving students. If you would like to speak to someone confidentially, please contact the WSC Counselor at (701)774-4212 (they are NOT mandated to report such instances).

## **FINAL EXAMS/ACTIVITIES**

Students are required to take the final examination or engage in the final activity on the date and at the time presented as part of the course syllabus. Exceptions may be made only in emergency situations and in the case of scheduling conflicts with college sponsored events by promptly submitting a written request detailing the circumstances to the instructor of the course. **Your meeting time for your final is: final portfolio submission online, Week 8.**