



Course Information

AG_E/GEOG 315V -- World Agriculture and Food Problems

SPRING 2018, mini-semester #2, Milton Hall 155, MWF: 10:30-12:20

Withdrawal Date: Thu Mar 17, 2018

Final Exam: Mon May 7, 2018: 10:30am-12:30pm

Instructor and TA Information

Instructor

Brian H. Hurd Professor
Office: Gerald Thomas 350
Office Hours: MW 8:30-10 AM
Office Phone: 575-646-2674
Instructor Web: <https://wordpress.nmsu.edu/bhurd/>
Email: preferred method is Canvas Inbox (24 hr. expected response time)



Teaching Assistant

Salvador Mariscal
Office: GT 369A
Office Hrs: TTh 10:30 AM -12:00 PM, W 1:00 PM-2:00 PM or by apt.
Telephone: 209-566-5385: Email: mar2594@nmsu.edu

Course Description

This course examines key concepts and issues relevant to the world's food production systems. Topical highlights include the causes and consequences of hunger, agriculture's economic and environmental significance, sustainable development, biotechnology, and globalization of agricultural markets. As students learn about these issues from both local and global perspectives they are engaged in the development of both their literacy of economic concepts and their core research and communication skills. We do this through a combination of relevant course readings, in class discussion exercises, and focused writing assignments on current issues of relevance.

Prerequisites

There are no course pre-requisites. This is an upper division course normally taken by students with Junior or Senior standing. Completion of General Education Requirements for MATH and ENGLISH is expected.

Course Delivery Method

This course module-based. There are 10 modules that must be completed in sequence. All graded assessments are expected and due according to the scheduled dates unless prior notice and consent is obtained.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

The learning outcomes and course objectives (CO) are:

1. Demonstrate conceptual and systems thinking and design.
2. Assess the nutrition and healthfulness of food choices.
3. Describe structure and function of food and agricultural systems.
4. Analyze roles of and relationships between food producers, consumers, and policy makers.
5. Apply basic economic concepts to describe and interpret food and agricultural issues.
6. Explain the environmental context and role of agriculture.
7. Articulate key arguments that favor and oppose food biotechnology.
8. Recognize several of the benefits and barriers in international trade of food and agricultural products.

In each 'module overview page' a set of module-specific learning objectives are identified and their association with the above course learning objectives is indicated.

Textbooks and Materials

(A) Required Text:

Leathers, H. D., & Foster, P. (2017). *The world food problem: toward understanding and ending undernutrition in the developing world (5th edition)*. Lynne Rienner Publishers Inc., Boulder, CO.

Additional Required Resources:

- a. Selected readings will be provided as links within specific modules.
- b. Web-available Resources and Video Links:

(B) Recommended Resources:

Additional readings and web-based resources are identified that students may find useful for further learning and/or research development are provided under the 'Web Resources' page in CANVAS.

Course Organization

The course is organized and sequenced by modules. Each module contains the following four elements: (1) Overview; (2) Readings and Viewings; and (3) Activities. Normally students will execute the assigned READINGS and review lectures in preparation for the upcoming MODULE, which will prepare them for the module quiz.

Performance Assessment and Grading Policy

The course consists of in-class module quizzes, group briefings, written “hot topic” papers, two mid-term exams, and a final exam. Weights and assessment value are given as:

Assignments	Units	Points	Weight
Quizzes	10	100	15%
Group Quizzes	10	100	5%
Group Briefings	3	300	25%
Written “Hot Topic” Papers	2	200	20%
Mid-Term EXAMS	2	200	20%
Final EXAM	1	100	15%
Total			100%
Percentage	Grade		
90-100	A		
80-89.5	B		
70-79.5	C		
60-69.5	D		
<60	F		

Quizzes

Each module will begin with a Readiness Assessment Test (RAT), which is a short quiz to gauge student preparation and comprehension of concepts and content from readings, lectures, and additional resources associated with the upcoming module. Quizzes will be taken TWICE during class – first individually and then with your assigned group.

Because of the dynamic nature of RATs and the quick turnaround by which I return graded work, **STUDENTS MUST TAKE RATs THAT THEY MISS BEFORE THE NEXT CLASS PERIOD!!!** This means it is students’ responsibility to contact me promptly to schedule a time to take the RAT PRIOR to these quizzes being turned back IN CLASS during the NEXT class session.

Group Briefings

There are several Group Briefing exercises that are intended to develop skills associated with team-based learning. Team Based Learning - Educational research indicates that more active classroom experiences are more effective at facilitating learning.... and more enjoyable. An excellent tool by which active learning can be advanced is Team Based Learning, in which students do much of their work in teams. Within teams, students also take an active role in determining how work is to be weighted towards a final grade. Working in teams is a very common model by which people work in numerous professions, and the experience you gain in a team-learning environment will benefit you in the professional workplace.

If students miss Group BRIEFING PAPER exercises for legitimate reasons, they will need to provide documentation on why class was missed, and write and turn in a 2-page write-up of the exercise in question in order to receive credit.

Written “Hot Topic” Papers

“Hot Topic Papers” are 2-3 page essays focused on a current topic related to the course. These are to be computer-generated, typewritten, or word-processed, and turned in on time!!! If you have a legitimate excuse for a University sanctioned activity or work-related event that causes work to be turned in late, please advise me in advance, turn in the work prior to the due date, and attach written documentation. Work coming in late due to illness also needs written documentation attached. Work turned in late for other reasons will be grudgingly accepted; however, 10% will be deducted for each day the assignment is late.

Exams

There are two Mid-Term Exams and one Final Exam.

Late Work

Students who miss in-class work for acceptable, documented reasons must provide written documentation to receive credit for these exercises.

If you have a scheduling conflict that causes you to either arrive late or leave early, please advise me of this ahead of time; otherwise, please show me and other students the courtesy of being on time and "enjoying the whole show."

Withdrawals and Incomplete Grades

Withdrawals from this course are solely students' responsibility; I will not withdraw or drop students from this class UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. It is your responsibility to know important dates such as the final day to withdraw from classes. The last day to drop with a 'W' is shown in the *Course Information*, above. You must officially withdraw from any class that you intend to drop. If you "want out of here like the place is on fire," you must drop the class; students still on the course roll at the end of the class will be issued grades based on work completed. Incomplete grades will not be given except in the case of extraordinary situations related to serious illness, bereavement, or personal

crises. Documentation will be required in these limited cases; incompletes will be granted solely at my discretion.

Communication

I will send urgent and regular communication to all students using the **Announcements tool in Canvas**. It is a requirement in this class that you set your New Announcements in Notifications to "Right Away" to ensure that you receive any announcements. (Go to Profile>Notifications, find for new announcements and set to Right Away). The CANVAS Discussion Tool and Collaboration Tool will also be used for interactions among instructors and students.

Email

Preferred email is CANVAS INBOX for all instructors. Students should normally expect a response within 24 hours. Your NMSU email account is the official means of communicating with the university. Information critical to your success at NMSU is delivered to you via this account, and you are expected to follow rules and policies provided to you via this communication method. Any email from you to the instructor should be sent either through the CANVAS course management system or through your official NMSU email account. Please be advised that due to privacy and security concerns, we are unable to respond to emails from or about students that do not originate from an official NMSU email address.

Phone Number

Telephone numbers are provided above. Limit their use to non-normal events or situations. Leave a voicemail message if necessary and I will return your call (or reply with an email as needed) within 24 hours.

DEVICES, CELL PHONES, AND COMPUTERS IN CLASS

As we all engage with digital devices, etiquette issues arise in class & professional situations. Put simply, I ask that you "watch your ringer." If you own a cell phone, please turn it off or set it to silent or vibrate prior to entering class. Outside of real emergencies or legitimate work-related obligations, people should not be taking calls in class. Also, **please refrain from texting, checking your EMAIL, Tweeting, Facebooking, or surfing the Web while in class**; This is especially required during exams and quizzes.

Netiquette

Netiquette, or network etiquette, is concerned with the "proper" way to communicate in an online environment. Consider the summary of "rules" shown here, [Netiquette Summary](#), that are adapted from Virginia Shea's [The Core Rules of Netiquette](#), whenever you communicate in the virtual world.

Honor's Credit

Students who wish to have this course count as an Honors course may do so by completing the Course by Contract form: <https://honors.nmsu.edu/for-students/honors->

[courses-by-contract/](#) . I will assign you additional work that will permit you to gain Honors credits for this course in your major. These credits will count as upper division credits towards the accumulation of 18 credits needed to graduate with University Honors. For additional information on pursuing the Honors recognition at graduation, contact the Honors College at 575-646-2005 or email Dean Chaiken at mchaiken@nmsu.edu. Completed Contract forms must be submitted in person to the Honors College no later than 1 week after the beginning of each semester.

Academic Integrity

As stated in the NMSU Undergraduate Catalog, "Students at NMSU are expected to observe and maintain the highest academic, ethical, and professional standards of conduct." I expect all work submitted in this class to represent each student's own individual efforts, and any student found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will be subject to the strictest disciplinary action, including issuance of a failing grade. As stated by the NMSU Student Code of Conduct, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is using another person's work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one's own. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct and are subject to disciplinary action such as failure on the assignment, failure of the course or dismissal from the university. The [NMSU Library](#) has more information and help on how to avoid plagiarism.

Outcome Assessment (course evaluation)

At the conclusion of the term, students are encouraged to provide candid and informative evaluations of the course and the instructor.

Student Support

Accessibility Support

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) covers issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:

Trudy Luken, Director Student Accessibility Services (SAS) - Corbett Center Student Union, Rm. 208
Phone: (575) 646-6840 E-mail: sas@nmsu.edu Website: <http://sas.nmsu.edu/>

NMSU policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation and protected veterans status. Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct: sexual violence (sexual assault, rape), sexual harassment and retaliation.

For more information on discrimination issues, Title IX, Campus SaVE Act, NMSU Policy Chapter 3.25, NMSU's complaint process, or to file a complaint contact: Lauri Millot, Director and Title IX Coordinator Agustin Diaz, Associate Director, Title IX Deputy Coordinator Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) - O'Loughlin House, 1130 University Avenue Phone: (575) 646-3635 E-mail: equity@nmsu.edu Website: <http://eeo.nmsu.edu/>

Other NMSU Resources: NMSU Police Department: (575) 646-3311 www.nmsupolice.com NMSU Police Victim Services: (575) 646-3424 NMSU Counseling Center: (575) 646-2731 NMSU Dean of Students: (575) 646-1722 For Any On-campus Emergencies: 911

Academic Learner Services Support

Students may find the [NMSU Student Support](#) website helpful for Academic Resources, Support and Development, and Campus Information.

Technical Support

The ICT Customer Service Center is equipped to deal with all of your information technology (IT) and telecommunications needs at NMSU. The ICT Customer Service Center hours of operation are from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday through Friday Mountain Time. Please feel free to contact them at 646-1840 or via e-mail at helpdesk@nmsu.edu. You can also go to the [Student Technology Help](#) web page and [Student Resources](#) located at the [Canvas](#) web page for additional information on Canvas.

Accessibility of eLearning Tools

Privacy Policies

- [Canvas](#)
- [Google](#)
- [Microsoft](#)
- [Adobe](#)
- [USDA Accessibility Statement \(for SuperTracker used in Assignment #1\)](#)

VPAT Statements

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)

- [Canvas](#)
- [Google](#)
- [Microsoft](#)
- [Adobe](#)
- [USDA Privacy Policy \(for SuperTracker used in Assignment #1\)](#)

Syllabus Modifications Statement

Instructor may modify this syllabus. Students will be notified of any and all changes through the CANVAS ANNOUNCEMENTS TOOL that will include a specific link to the revised document.