AGRON 496B Domestic Tour (2 credits)
Learning Across America: Agricultural Systems
Summer 2021 Syllabus

Class: Initially meets 1062 Roy J Carver Co-Lab.

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn J. Lawrence-Dill (triffid@iastate.edu)
0035B Roy J. Carver Co-Lab
294-4294

Contact: The best way to contact your instructor is by email. Office hours for CJLD are 2-4 PM Wednesdays and require an appointment.

Course Goals: Individuals working in applied plant sciences must be able to understand how the broad food system works; from basic research to applied, through product development and production, as well as distribution. The system itself is dependent on availability of worker populations and how markets work, and is further influenced by emerging technologies as well as legal, economic, social, environmental and ethical constraints. A number of institutions have successfully navigated these constraints and exemplify how the agricultural food system works in tandem with modern computational and technological advances. This course will introduce students working across diverse disciplines to these key institutions.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Understand how differences in agricultural, economic, and social environments lead to differences in management practices for plant-based agricultural institutions (US diversity, ethics)
2. Articulate whether and how state-of-the-art technologies impact how institutions approach applied plant sciences where the public is involved.
3. Have a broad understanding of the various perspectives that play into food systems in the US (US diversity, perspectives)
4. Articulate how economic and social policy impact management practices (US diversity, ethics)
5. Communicate these observations via a poster presentation (Communication)
6. Communicate observations to the general public through an online webpage and via a community engagement opportunity (Communication)

Course Objectives: This one-credit summer semester course brings graduate students and advanced undergraduate students to tech-savvy farms, businesses, and other agricultural institutions across the United States to expose them to different agricultural, economic, and cultural environments in order to gain an understanding as to how these factors contribute to the food system. These trips will take place over the course of 8 weeks and will include: a one-week trip to the California Central Coast; 2–3 weekend trips to farms in nearby states; and 3–4 one day trips to places within Iowa and/or Nebraska. Potential locations for each of these trips is shown in the syllabus. Final locations will depend on formalizing specific agreements.

Text: None.

Online: Various resources are available. Use online dictionaries where jargon is prevalent. Assignments will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Canvas will be used to report grades and post other class materials. To access Canvas, go to the Iowa State Homepage (http://www.iastate.edu), and click “Sign On” link in the top right, choose Canvas or visit (http://canvas.iastate.edu). To login, enter your NET ID (that part of your ISU e-mail address before @) and your e-mail password.

Attendance is mandatory. Each student is allowed one excused absence for a local trip. If you have a legitimate conflict beyond this limitation (scheduled hospitalization, ISU-sponsored sports event, educational trip, etc.) you must notify the instructor in advance of your absence and may be asked to share documentation. Please do not come to class if you get the flu or other infectious disease.

Assessment: Grades will be assessed based on: daily attendance, submission of a paragraph describing the utility of each day’s experiences, a poster (content), and presentation of the poster for a public audience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance &amp; Daily Paragraph</th>
<th>50 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poster</td>
<td>30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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Please note: attendance and daily paragraphs constitute half your grade!

The following grading scale will be used:

- A: 89.5+ points
- B: 79.5-89.49 points
- C: 69.5-79.49 points
- D: 59.5-69.49 points
- F: below 59.5 points

The instructor reserves the right to use +/- grading within the above-stated grading scale.

This one-credit summer semester course brings graduate students and advanced undergraduate students to farms, businesses, and other agricultural institutions across the United States to expose them to different agricultural, economic, and cultural environments in order to gain an
understanding as to how these factors contribute to the food system. These trips will take place over the course of 8 weeks and will include: a one-week trip to the California Central Coast; 2 – 3 weekend trips to farms in nearby states; and 3 – 4 one day trips to places within Iowa and/or Nebraska. Potential locations for each of these trips are shown in Table 1. Final locations will depend on formalizing agreements.

**Table 1. Three trip types for the course “Learning Across America: Agricultural Systems”**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip type</th>
<th>Potential Destinations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week-long trip (one trip)</td>
<td>*Tanimura and Antle Farms (Tanimura, CA), *Raya Ranches (King City, CA), Callaway Vineyard and Winery (Temecula, CA) *Driscoll Berries (Santa Maria, CA) *J. Lohr Vinyards &amp; Wines (San Jose, CA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overnight trip (2 – 3 trips)</td>
<td>Illinois: *Chicago Board of Trade, Urban Farming</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Colorado: *Silverpeak Apothecary, Colorado Hop Company</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ohio: Greenfield Berry Farm, *Bob Evans Farm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Michigan: Grand Traverse Region Cherries, IMPACTS (MSU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>One day turnaround (3 – 4 trips)</td>
<td>*Corteva, (Des Moines, IA), Sawmill Hollow (Missouri Valley, IA), John Deere (Des Moines, IA), Green Plains (York, NE), Wagonhammer (Albion, NE), *USDA NCRPIS (Ames, IA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Companies already contacted.

**Tentative Schedule by Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic/activity/event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Course overview, one-day turn-around trip trip (M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Two one-day turn-around trips (MW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Overnight trip 1 (Su-M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Overnight trip 2 (Su-M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Overnight trip 3 (Su-M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>One-week California Central Coast (Su-Sat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Develop poster (M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Present poster (Sat)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Academic Dishonesty:**
The class will follow Iowa State University’s policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. [https://www.studentconduct.dso.iastate.edu/academic-misconduct/armfacultystaff](https://www.studentconduct.dso.iastate.edu/academic-misconduct/armfacultystaff)

**Accessibility Statement:** Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to work directly with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification Letter for each course listing approved reasonable
accommodations. This document will be made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and are not intended to be an unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu, by contacting SAS staff by email at accessibility@iastate.edu, or by calling 515-294-7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit in the Dean of Students Office located at 1076 Student Services Building.

Dead Week: This class follows the Iowa State University Dead Week policy as noted in section 10.6.4 of the Faculty Handbook http://www.provost.iastate.edu/resources/faculty-handbook.

Discrimination and Harassment: Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, Hotline 515-294-1222, email eoooffice@iastate.edu

Religious Accommodation: Iowa State University welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request the reasonable accommodation for religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing. The instructor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course. For students, you should first discuss the conflict and your requested accommodation with your professor at the earliest possible time. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office at 515-294-1020 or the Office of Equal Opportunity at 515-294-7612.

Student Safety: Students’ well-being and safety is a top priority. Before the first trip, we will have a meeting with the class to go over all travel arrangements, the course makeup, and all safety protocols we will put in place. All buses will be driven by professional drivers and all locations for accommodations made while traveling will be made with student safety in mind. Students will be encouraged to bring up issues and concerns as the course proceeds. Students will be encouraged to work with Student Accessibility Services if/as needed to facilitate involvement in these activities.

Contact Information: If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu.

Last Comments
Be sure that everything you turn in has your name, exercise number, and the exercise statement annotated.

Please make note of the image below when crafting email communications to the instructor.

The instructor reserves the right to vary from this syllabus and probably will.
HOW TO WRITE AN E-MAIL TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR OR T.A.

From: Student
To: Instructor/TA

"hey"

lol, when is your office hours?

btw, where is you're office?

MMMM!!! How did you graduate high school?

BEFORE ASKING YOUR QUESTION, ALWAYS CONSULT:
A) THE SYLLABUS
B) COMMON SENSE
C) THE SYLLABUS

IT ONLY TAKES A SECOND TO SPELL CHECK!!! SERIOUSLY YOUR TIME IS NOT THAT IMPORTANT.

IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS!!!

MY NAME IS NOT "SILLY" "HAHA" OR "DUMB" USE A PROPER GREETING!

OOPS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WRITE FILL SENTENCES! USE AN INTERNET SEARCH ENOUGH

SIGN YOUR NAME! THIS SENT CAN" AND WE ARE NOT FRIENDS.

WWW.PHOCOMICS.COM