

**AGRICULTURE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY**  
**AGRI 120 – Fall 2020**  
**School of Agriculture - Western Illinois University**

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**INSTRUCTOR**

Jana Knupp  
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Office: B21 Knoblauch (woods lab)  
Virtual Office Hours: T/TH 10-12 p.m., Friday 9-10 a.m.  
F2F by appointment

**VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS:** I will be available during my virtual office hours by Google Hangouts or email. If you contact me during the office hour times I will respond to you promptly. If you would like to set-up a time to meet over Google Meets, please let me know.

**CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS**

Section I will meet Monday and Wednesday 3-3:50 p.m. in KH 305  
Section II will meet Monday and Wednesday 4-4:50 p.m. in KH 226

Last class on October 14.

We will meet face-to-face unless we have Zoom speakers scheduled. When Zoom speakers are scheduled you can login from your home computer to participate instead of coming to class. We will not meet in class when we have Zoom speakers.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES**

General orientation to modern agriculture. A study of career opportunities in industry, business, production agriculture, teaching, resource management, and environment control. 1 hr. lect.

**COURSE MATERIAL & CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Course handouts will be provided as necessary. All students enrolled are **required to use their WIU email and Western Online**. Important class announcements will be made via WIU email, Western Online, and the WIU text notification system. Notes and additional information can be found on Western Online. Activities outside of class time will be required.

**COURSE GOALS:**

1. Understand methods for success and leadership and educational opportunities at Western Illinois University and the School of Agriculture.
2. Understand career opportunities in agriculture.
3. Understand basic principles and issues within the agriculture industry.
4. Challenge your thinking and take hold of new opportunities.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

September 22, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Zoom Alumni Panel  
October 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Virtual Career Fair

**ABSENCES**

To succeed in this class, you must be present. Each class period is worth 10 participation points. Excused absences (emergencies, funerals, and illness) should be cleared with the instructor **prior to the class** via email, the OARS system, or in person. Notifying the instructor of your absence does not mean you are excused from class that day. Unexcused absences will result in a loss of participation/attendance points for that day. All assignments missed due to an excused absence must be completed prior to the next class period.

## LATE ASSIGNMENTS

The “real world” has deadlines; therefore, this class has deadlines. Learn to meet deadlines now so when your job is on the line, it isn't a hard task for you. Your assignment is due at the beginning of class on the day it is due in the form assigned (WO, hard copy, etc). **For each day your assignment is late you will be docked 5 points.**

## CLASS GUIDELINES

**Failure to comply with the class rules will result in a loss of participation points. Repeat offenses will result in the loss of one letter grade.**

Cell Phones/laptops/tablets: Cell phones/laptops/tablets are not to be used during class unless requested to do so for class activity purposes. If, due to medical or public safety concerns, a student needs an exception to this policy he/she should inform the instructor prior to class.

**\*\*\*Phone usage is not allowed during class. This isn't a joke.  
Seriously, put your phones away. \*\*\***

Tobacco: Use of tobacco **in any form** is prohibited in university buildings/classrooms.

Talking: Unnecessary side conversations will not be tolerated.

Respect: Please respect the opinions of your classmates during class discussions and activities. **Fifty points** will be deducted if at any time during a conversation you are harassing or demeaning towards another student.

Do. The. Work.: The more effort you put into this class, the more you will get out of it.

Whining: There is a \$5 fine for whining.

## ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will be graded on attention to instruction and detail, proper writing conventions, overall effectiveness and organization, and clarity among other components. All assignments must be typed, 12 pt. font, unless otherwise noted. All assignments will be turned in on Western Online unless otherwise noted.

## GRADING POLICY:

**The course grade will be based on the following:**

### GRADING SCALE:

93% and above = A

90 – 92 = A-

87 – 89 = B+

83 – 86 = B

80 – 82 = B-

77 – 79 = C+

73 – 76 = C

70 – 72 = C-

67 – 69 = D+

63 – 66 = D

60 – 62 = D-

59 and below = F

### Attention Education Majors:

The changes within the state teaching license require all education majors to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet Illinois teaching license requirements. With the university +/- grading system, receiving a "D+" or below will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet School of Agriculture graduation requirements.

**ASSIGNMENTS- Due on Western Online unless otherwise noted.**

**WIU Experiences: (20 points each)** Explore your new “home away from home.” Participate in an on-campus activity or Macomb activity that you currently do not participate in. Take a photo of the event and include it in your write-up. Write-ups must contain the name, date, time, and host of the event, what you did at the event, and what you enjoyed and disliked about the event. A total of 8 experiences are due throughout the course (one each week). Examples include: attend a cultural event, club meeting, try a new restaurant, participate in an activity with your floor, canoe at Spring Lake, hike at Lake Argyle, volunteer, attend a new church service, etc. Zoom events DO count, but please participate.

**WIU Virtual Career Fair: (50 points)** Attend the School of Agriculture Virtual Career Fair on Wednesday, October 7. Dressed professionally, visit with at least three company representatives. Write a summary about who you spoke with, which company, and what positions they have available. Is this company/position a good fit for you? Why or why not?

**Guest Instagrammer for a day: (50 points)** Tell others your Leatherneck story on the WIUAg Instagram account. Post a photo and caption at least 4 times on your assigned day about what you do around campus. You may include your daily routine, eating in the cafeteria, work you are doing in a lab, events around campus, buildings on campus, etc. Posts should be fun, insightful, and informative. Think about information you would want to know if you were considering attending WIU (which you just were!) Please see “Instagrammer For-a-Day Guidelines.”

**Resume: (50 points)** Write a reverse chronological resume outlining your skills and experiences.

**Guest Speaker Questions/Summary: (25 points each)** We will be having multiple guest speakers visit class in person and via zoom. You must come up with one question to ask each individual and write a summary of each speaker. Take notes! Write the question you asked/wanted to ask with your summary and upload to WO.

**Ag Alumni Panel: (50 points)** Attend the Zoom Ag Alumni Panel on September 22 from 3-4:30 p.m. Write a summary about what you learned from the speakers.

**Career Paper & Presentation: (200 points)** Select a career from AgExpolrer.com that you are not familiar with (cannot choose “farmer”), but are interested in. Research that career, write a paper and create a 6-8 minute presentation including (but not limited to) the following. Your paper should be a minimum of 2 pages and should be written in MLA format.

Education required	Career advancement	Would you want to pursue this position?
Geography of position	Job market	
Job responsibilities	Companies that hire for this position	What do you need to do if so?
Professional organizations (explain at least one)	Salary & Benefits	What skills do you possess for this position?

**Final Project: (135 points)** A summary about your plans for the future. Details will be given in class.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**ADA Compliance:** In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. For the instructor to provide the proper accommodation(s) you must obtain documentation of the need for an accommodation through Disability Resource Center (DRC) and provide it to the instructor. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire about such particular needs of students. Students who may require special assistance in emergency evacuations (i.e. fire, tornado, etc.) should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. Contact Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 298-2512 for additional services.

**Title IX:** University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: [http://www.wiu.edu/equal\\_opportunity\\_and\\_access/request\\_form/index.php](http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php). If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

**Academic Integrity:** The rules and regulations outlined in the University's policy on academic integrity are applied to this course. <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Detailed information regarding student rights and responsibilities can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student.php>. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the posted information.

**Disruptive Student Behavior:** Disruptive Student Behavior is defined as inappropriate student behavior that a reasonable faculty member would view as interfering with the ability of the instructor to teach and students to learn whether in a classroom or other learning environment (such as an online course, laboratory, site field experience, internships, instructor's office, computer lab, or other setting whether it is an on-campus or off-campus location), which disrupts the educational process. It is also considered disruptive behavior for a student to exhibit threatening, intimidating, or other inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates outside of the learning environment. Further information is available at <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/disrupst.php>.

**Policy on a Seating Chart:** Contact tracing is required to control any potential outbreak of COVID 19 on campus. As such, in each class we strongly recommend a seating chart be created on the first day of a course and students should be expected to adhere to their respective seat in each course for the remainder of the semester.

**Policy on Face Coverings in the Classroom:** All students and faculty are required to wear a face covering at all times in the classroom.

Western Illinois University will provide two (2) cloth face coverings to all instructors and students, and replace them when necessary. Individuals may use a personally purchased alternative face covering as appropriate. Employees and students are responsible for laundering their reusable cloth face coverings. It is the responsibility of University units to ensure compliance from employees and students under their purview. Units can also refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on face coverings with regard to type and fit, wearing, and washing. Additionally, no food or drink will be allowed in the classroom.

Please find a more detailed explanation of this policy at: [http://www.wiu.edu/policies/covid\\_facecovering.php](http://www.wiu.edu/policies/covid_facecovering.php)

**Disciplinary Policy on Refusal to Wear a Face Covering:** Exceptions to the policy require approval by WIU's Disability Resources Center (DRC) located within the Student Development and Success Center (SDSC) and the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access.

If a student refuses to comply with the policy, and does not have appropriate approval from the DRC, instructors and University officials can request that the student leave the class or activity. If a student is found to be in repeated

violation of this policy, instructors and University officials can sanction the student through the student conduct process for violating the WIU Code of Student Conduct code number 17: *“Failing to comply with the directions of or obstructing University officials or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties and/or failure to positively identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.”*

### **COVID-19 NOTES**

- Attendance will be taken for each class period. Seats will be assigned on the first day. You are not allowed to move seats once you have chosen your spot. Choose wisely.
- Do not move tables or chairs.
- Hand sanitizer, disinfectant, and paper towels are available for you to clean your desk before class.
- I will not be on campus on Tuesday or Thursday.
- In order for the campus to remain open, we need YOUR cooperation. Please wear your mask, Practice social distancing. Skip the party. Make good choices.

It is important that everyone remain flexible during this semester. I promise to be upfront with communication and any changes that are thrown our way. I will not add busy work to make up for class time lost due to moving to remote instruction. I do expect you to check in and be present.

### **MOVE TO ONLINE**

In the event that the university moves to online instruction ahead of schedule, or my situation requires the move to online, we will meet as a group one to two days per week. The amount of days we meet synchronously will be determined by the content being taught. If we do not meet over Zoom, you will be required to read and listen to the recorded lectures on Western Online. I will provide you with a run down of the week ahead on Sunday evening via email.

Should we move to online instruction, that does not mean that your schoolwork is a second priority to your job. School is still your job. Unless you have a family emergency that states otherwise, I do expect you to be present at all online class periods and have your work turned in on time.

For online meetings, I ask that you have your webcam on as long as your internet supports it. It is very difficult talking to a computer of black squares for 50 minutes. The class will remain interactive and I will call on people frequently, so pay attention.

### **NOTICES**

Please be advised that this syllabus is **tentative**. All classes are different and we may or may not be able to address all of the content areas. Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.