

**AGRI 120 AGRICULTURE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY (FYE)**  
**Knoblauch Hall 226**  
**Fall 2009 \*\*\* 9:00 - 9:50 MWF**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Danny E. Terry  
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**Course Description:**

*AGRI 120 Agriculture in Today's Society. (3) General orientation to agricultural issues; study of career opportunities in industry, business, production agriculture, teaching, resource management, and environmental control. Three hours lecture.*

**Purpose of the Course:**

The purpose of this course is two-fold. First, this course will expose you to the skills necessary to become a successful student at Western--skills which are different from those you used in high school. During the course you will (a) find out what a college education is all about, (b) learn how to enjoy learning, (c) get to know faculty, staff, and fellow students on a personal basis, (d) utilize the university services and opportunities, and (e) evaluate career opportunities in various agricultural areas. The end goal is to acquaint you with characteristics needed to become a more successful student at the university and help you move more successfully toward your career goals. The second purpose of this course is to examine various issues confronting the agricultural industry, and help you understand and evaluate the different positions and impacts related to these many issues. This second purpose matches closely with the 2009-2010 University Theme of **Dollars and Sense: Personal Finance to World Poverty.**

**Course Grade:**

Your grade will be based on the number of points you earn for quizzes/assignments, campus activities, journal writing, issue papers, debates, final exam, and class participation. Details of how to earn points are attached. The final grading scale will be, as follows:

- A = must earn at least 2000 points
- B = must earn at least 1700 points
- C = must earn at least 1400 points
- D = must earn at least 1100 points

**Assignments:**

Completion and submission of certain assignments will be required throughout the semester. You will submit your assignments on 5" x 8" index cards. If quizzes occur, they will be based on material covered during the current or previous class period, presentations by guest speakers, debates, and/or assignments.

**Campus Activities:**

Activities are to be recorded and turned in on 3" x 5" index cards. Each card should contain the type of activity, the name of the activity, your name, your observations of the event (the 5 W's are helpful--who, what, when, where & why), and your reactions. You must turn in at least five cards by September 11, five additional cards by October 12, and the remaining cards by November 6. You will not receive credit for repeat activities (i.e., you will not receive additional credit for attending a second Leatherneck's football game). An example of an appropriate activity card follows:

A. Recreational/Entertainment  
**Student Rec Center**

Sally Jones

My friend Chris and I went to an aqua-aerobics session on August 27th at the Rec Center. About 20 men and women of all ages were there. I got a good workout and now my legs hurt a little. It takes some time but it is worth it. I plan to go at least once a week for the rest of the year.

**Journal:**

A journal is a place to explore personal and expressive (free) writing, to reflect, to practice thinking and writing, and to analyze educational and life experiences. Journal writing is "thinking on paper" and a journal is written from a combined subjective/objective perspective. Therefore, a journal differs from a diary in that the latter contains only subjective recordings of a very personal nature. Likewise, journals differ from logs and notebooks which are objective records of information and data.

You are to keep a journal of your semester at WIU. It is to be kept in the folders Danny gives to you. You are to include a minimum of four entries for each submission time span (usually 2 - 3 weeks), with a minimum length of ½ page per entry. Writing more than the minimum number of entries is encouraged. It is important to develop the habit of using your journal even when you are not in an academic environment. Good ideas and questions don't always wait for convenient times for you to record them. Write 1) in the morning, during the day, in the evening {any appropriate time}, 2) when you have problems to solve, decisions to make, confusions to clarify, and 3) when you need to practice or try out something.

Title each entry. Also, indicate the date, time, and location at the beginning of each journal entry (right-hand corner). Your entries are to focus on what happens to you and how you feel (mad, happy, hurt, disappointed, confused, embarrassed, etc.) about the events. Focus on events. Each entry should center around an event of the day--report on the event and how you felt. Events can be classes, encounters with friends, roommates, teachers, or parents. The main idea is to keep track of events as they unfold this semester. Be sure to include discussions of your reactions to Western. You should write however you feel like writing. The point is to "think on paper" without worrying about spelling, punctuation, or grammar. The quality of what you write is as important as the quantity. Use language that expresses your personal voice - language that comes natural to you. Take risks, write freely, "talk about it." **The final journal entry will be a summary of your semester and your hopes for the future (what you thought as you entered college and your thoughts as you finish your first semester).** The journals will be collected every few weeks during the term. Each time your journal will be read only by Danny. Comments and reactions to what you have written will be entered into your journal.

**NOTE: YOUR JOURNAL WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE READ ONLY BY YOU AND DANNY.**

Journals will be evaluated on the following four parameters:

- 1) format, introduction, and conclusion.
- 2) number of entries.
- 3) length of entries.
- 4) topic selection and content of entries.

**Issues Papers:**

Issue Paper #1: You will write (in-class) a 2-3 page paper discussing your general views and opinions of one or more of the many issues in agriculture. You might discuss a current issue(s), but focus also on a possible future issue(s) in agriculture and who/what might be affected, and how this might occur.

Issue Paper #2: As a class member, you will write a 2-5 page (typed, double-spaced) paper discussing a "highly controversial issue" in agriculture. The issue you select must be approved by Danny before you begin the process. Details on Issue Paper #2 will be distributed at a later date. Based on this assignment, some students will likely be required to visit the Writing Center for Issue Paper #3. However, all students (and faculty) can benefit from peer writing reviews, and Danny highly recommends all students use this free service.

Issue Paper #3: You will be asked to write a 4-8 page (typed, double-spaced) paper on the same topic you used in Issue Paper #2. Details on Issue Paper #3 will be distributed at a later date.

#### **Debates:**

Each class member will participate in two modified debates. Teams will consist of several (the actual number depends on the class size) "randomly" selected members and topics will be assigned approximately two-three weeks in advance. It should be noted that you will probably be arguing positions contrary to your personal beliefs and values. Appearance and speaking ability will not enter into the evaluation. Evaluations will be based on a three-step process dealing primarily with the quantity, quality, and credibility of facts presented; teams' abilities to "get their points across;" and the overall debate. First the team with the most votes (each winning team is decided by fellow classmates) gets a higher grade than the losing team (for that debate). Second and perhaps more important, Danny will evaluate the debates based on facts presented and the credibility of the sources, and his expectations of the credible facts and sources (and to a certain extent he will compare them to the other debates using the same criteria) -- this is a rather subjective part of the process, but Danny will try to be fair to all teams. So it is possible for one team to win one debate, yet get a score lower than a team losing another debate. Third, Danny will consider the teams and their peer evaluations to determine if someone has not participated equally (if this is the case, then that student would not receive full credit -- his/her score depends on how poorly he/she participated in the team activities); otherwise all members of the team will receive the same score. It is a complicated and somewhat subjective process, and doesn't directly relate to how an individual could have done a better job.

#### **Final Exam:**

The final essay exam will consist of two parts, the first part will be in essay format and primarily address the text *Nickel and Dime* and the agricultural issues discussed during the semester. The second part of the final exam will be structured as a debate to the topic of global warming - similar to the "affirmative" or "status quo" (or negative) position in the earlier debates. Your position will be that of the negative (or status quo). You will be asked to present your position (including sources) against policy actions (that were discussed in class) to stop global warming. For the final exam you will be allowed to use and reference your written sources (books and articles related to the issue of global warming).

#### **Participation:**

It is impossible for you to meet the course objectives unless you are present and participate in class. For this reason, you are expected to attend every class. Danny believes this so strongly that a bonus of 50 points is included for perfect attendance. If you miss a class for a **verifiable emergency**, you will be allowed, at your initiative, to "make-up" the absence for credit. Oftentimes there will be lecture and discussion sessions. Questions will be raised in class for response and discussion. You are encouraged to say what you think. Bring questions to class. You share the responsibility for getting the various viewpoints aired. Part of your grade depends on classroom contribution, with the emphasis on quality, not quantity. Thus, regular attendance and timely arrival is expected. Plan not only to show up, but to write, to think, and to speak. Be prepared to challenge the basic premises of the class and the readings. A variety of perspectives and opinions will be strongly encouraged, along with vigorous (but civil) debate and argument. Be willing to take some chances intellectually. At times the class will emphasize discussion and rely little on lectures by Danny or guest speakers.

**Make-Up Work:**

If you have a verifiable emergency, some absences and assignments can be made up for points and eligibility for bonus points. Make-up work is your responsibility; Danny will not seek you out to assign or discuss make-up work.

**Text:**

There is no formal text for this class. However, the book you received at orientation, *Nickel and Dimed: On (not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich, will be explicitly covered (so please read it if you haven't already done so). In addition, a useful text will be *A Pocket Style Manual*, by Diana Hacker (\$25.00 new and \$18.75 used at the WIU Bookstore - also check internet sites such as Amazon.com). Most ENGL 100, ENGL 180 and ENGL 280 course sections require the writing manual. Also, you will be asked to pay for a *Myers-Briggs Type Indicator* evaluation form and associated booklet *MBTI Introduction to Type in College*. *MBTI* score-sheets and booklets are not at the WIU Bookstore. They will be distributed in class on August 28. Your cost will be \$10.00. If you truly can't afford the \$10.00, please let Danny know (he will make the payment for you).

**Peer Mentor:**

Each FYE section has a Peer Mentor assigned to work with Danny and freshmen enrolled in the course. The Peer Mentor for Section #2 is Chris Piper ([CL-Piper4@wiu.edu](mailto:CL-Piper4@wiu.edu)). Responsibilities of Peer Mentors will include the following: (a) assistance to freshmen in adjusting to class during the first week; (b) attendance at certain co-curricular activities and leading of discussion following; (c) occasional attendance in class during the semester; (d) finding and arranging possible co-curricular events; (e) assisting students with the course material, and (f) planning social activities for the class.

**Teaching Philosophy of Danny Terry:**

*The test of a good teacher is not how many questions he can ask his students that they will answer readily, but how many questions he inspires them to ask him which he finds it hard to answer.*

Alice Wellington Rollins

Danny believes that a university system is comprised of a leadership team made up of a president, provost, vice presidents, college deans, chairpersons, faculty, and staff who are responsible for the coordinated effort of teaching/learning directed to the most important members of the university system -- the students.

Danny's individual teaching style can best be described as open, informal, and one of active participation. As a teacher, his primary objective is to assist (not spoon feed) students in learning and ensure their abilities so that they can achieve their goals. He views himself as a facilitator of learning, and his students as clients. Danny tries not to emphasize memorization beyond what is necessary, but does try to provide leadership and encourage scholarship, knowledge, problem-solving, and application.

Oftentimes the cause and effect flow in teaching/learning is reversed; often Danny learns from his students. He encourages them to ask "the difficult questions" of him and those around them. It is his policy to explain to the students that he makes mistakes (after all, professors are human too). Danny regularly asks for guidance and suggestions to improve his teaching skills, but more importantly to improve their ability to understand, learn, and apply. He strives for a relaxed classroom atmosphere where students can at any time ask questions or provide additional relevant comments.

Danny feels that teachers must take personal and moral responsibilities for improving the intellectual environment, developing a global perspective in all facets, encourage strong leadership and support by challenging that leadership through appropriate means, and focus on presenting academic programs in a manner that is more interdisciplinary, intergenerational, intercultural, and international. Danny also feels that students must be prepared and willing to actively participate in such an environment.

**Office Hours:**

You are encouraged to visit Danny in his office. An appointment is not necessary if you plan to visit during Danny's office hours, but a call may save you some time. If you need to make an appointment, Danny usually carries his PDA (schedule) with him. Please call if you are unable to keep your appointment. To make your visit more productive, plan to bring a list of specific questions or troublesome topics. If you have a specific question, you may call Danny at his office. You may also call him at his home in the evening, but only before 9:00 p.m. If it is an absolute emergency, the time restriction is waived (remember -- your definition of an absolute emergency and Danny's definition might be different).

**Academic Integrity:**

It is felt that you are well aware of what actions violate the standards of academic honesty which have been established at this University. If you are not aware of what constitutes an academic violation, or not aware of regulations/policies, please refer to [www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php#rnone](http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php#rnone) on WIU's webpage. It would be unfair to violators and to other students for Danny not to follow through with the disciplinary process which has been established when he is certain a violation has occurred. If caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing others' work, Danny will follow-up with a written report to you explaining the situation as he views it, and the evidence he has pertaining to the event. After meeting with you, if Danny is still convinced that you were cheating (this includes plagiarism), you will be assigned a final grade of "F" for this course. A full disclosure of student rights and responsibilities can be found at [www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php](http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php) on WIU's webpage.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**

At Western, accommodations in the area of test and note-taking may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. Any student with a documented disability, that needs classroom accommodations, e.g., academic or emergency evacuation, is requested to set up a meeting with Danny to discuss accommodations. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the attention of your instructors, as they are legally not permitted to inquire about such particular needs of students. For AGRI 120, if you feel you need special accommodations, please feel free to come and discuss this with Danny or contact Tara Miller (298-2512) at Disability Support Services -- Seal Hall 117.

**Behaviors to Avoid:**

A few things to avoid in any college classes are : 1) carrying on personal conversations with others during lectures; 2) sending text messages on your cell phones during class; 3) allowing your cell phone to ring during class; 4) missing class and asking "Did I miss anything important?"; 5) placing your head on your desk or falling asleep during the lecture/class; 6) being excessively tardy; 7) failing to read assigned textbook or collateral material; 8) being absent on exam days; and 9) not bring required materials to class.

Thus, specifically for AGRI 120 (and many other courses), regular attendance (and timely arrival) is expected (just like showing up for work - and showing up on time is required if you want to keep your job). Notify Danny if you are going to be absent. Turn off your cell-phone ringer and DO NOT send text messages during class! Don't leave class early. Turn in work that is neat, clean, and well-organized. Conduct yourself in a professional manner.

**Food, Beverage, and Tobacco Policy:**

The use of tobacco is prohibited in Knoblauch Hall.

**Important Dates:**

- August 28 (F) - Open registration ends.
- September 2 (W) - Study Abroad Fair from 10:00 - 3:00 PM outside Student Union Plaza.
- September 2 (W) - The Fair (Activities Fair; Fun F.A.I.R.; Volunteer Fair; CommUniversity) from 3:00 - 5:00 PM in the University Union, first level.
- September 4 (F) - Last day to process a drop without being assessed tuition for your class(es) or receiving a "W" (withdrawal) grade; a full refund will be made of all tuition and mandatory fees for any student totally withdrawing from the University.
- September 7 (M) - Labor Day--classes dismissed.
- September 11-12 (F-Sa) - Macomb Balloon Rally.
- September 19 (Sa) - Football: WIU vs Stephan F. Austin at 6:05 PM.
- October 1 (W) - Illinois archery deer season opens.
- October 3 (Sa) - Football: WIU vs Southern Illinois (Family Weekend) at 6:05 PM.
- October 14 (W) - Ag Career Fair from 9:00 - 3:00 PM in the University Union Ballroom.
- October 17 (Sa) - Football: WIU vs Missouri State (Homecoming) at 3:05 PM.
- October 20 (T) - Early warning grade notifications e-mailed to students.
- October 31 (Sa) - Football: WIU vs North Dakota State at 1:05 PM.
- November 1 (Su) - Last day to make a total University withdrawal.
- November 1 (Su) - Last day to drop a 16-week class.
- November 2-20 - Advanced Registration for Spring 2010.
- November 20-22 (F-Su) - First Illinois deer season (firearms).
- November 21 (Sa) - Football: WIU vs South Dakota State at 1:05 PM.
- November 23-27 (M-F) - Fall break--classes dismissed.
- December 3-6 (R-Su) - Second Illinois deer season (firearms).
- December 14-18 (M-F) - Final exam week.
- December 16 (W) - Final exam for the 9:00 AM section of AGRI 120 is 8:00 AM.

**Schedule :****Assignments Due**

08/24 (M)	Introduction and Course Goals, Ice Breaker	
08/26 (W)	Introduction Continued	
08/28 (F)	Equal Opportunity and Access (Ellyn Bartges @ 9:00 AM); <i>Myers-Briggs Type Indicator</i> (Michelle Terry @ 9:25 AM)	Index Card #1
08/31 (M)	Agricultural Issues - First Contact	Issue Paper #1 (In-class)
09/02 (W)	Review and Discuss <i>Myers-Briggs Type Indicator</i> (Michelle Terry)	Index Card #2; Journal #1
*09/02 (W)	Dinner (5:00 - 7:00 PM) at Danny's House (806 Briarwood Drive)	
*09/3 (R)	Dinner (5:00 - 7:00 PM) at Danny's House (806 Briarwood Drive)	
09/04 (F)	Clubs and School Opportunities	
09/07 (M)	Labor Day - No Classes	
09/09 (W)	<i>Nickel and Dimed</i> - Serving in Florida	Index Card #3
09/11 (F)	Writing Center (Neil Baird) -- Meet in Simpkins Hall 341	Activity Cards; Index Card #4; Questions #1 (In-class)
09/14 (M)	Library Computer Classroom (John Stierman) -- Meet on Third Floor of Malpass Library)	
09/16 (W)	Morning at the WIU Agricultural Field Laboratory - Alternative Crops	Index Card #5
09/18 (F)	How to Debate (Dale Hample of the Department of Communication - University of Maryland)	Journal #2
09/21 (M)	Debate Video	Issue Paper #2 Topic Selection
09/23 (W)	Debate Teams and Topics	
09/25 (F)	Campus Services (Marsha Dace of Counseling Center @ 9:00 AM); Agricultural Issues	Questions #2 (In-class)
09/28 (M)	Resume Writing	Index Card #6
09/30 (W)	Career Services (Renee Sprock) -- meet in Sherman Hall 116	
10/02 (F)	Internships of the Past Year	Index Card #7
10/05 (M)	<i>Nickel and Dimed</i> - Scrubbing in Maine	Draft of Resume
10/07 (W)	Spring '10 Course Schedules (Ember Keithley)	Index Card #8; Journal #3
10/09 (F)	Debate Preparation	

10/12 (M)	Debates	Activity Cards
10/14 (W)	Debates	
10/16 (F)	Debates	
10/19 (M)	Morning at the WIU Agricultural Field Lab - Livestock	Issue Paper #2
10/21 (W)	Debate Teams; Agricultural Issues	Spring Schedule; Index Card #9
10/23 (F)	Debate Preparation	Degree Plan
10/26 (M)	International Opportunities (John Carlson or Kevin Bacon; Leo Meijer or Kim McDaniel)	
10/28 (W)	Spring Schedule and Degree Plans (Ember Keithley)	
10/30 (F)	Ag Business Opportunities as Viewed by Professionals Ray Bunch - Ag Loan Officer; Chris Bertelsen - Agronomy Sales; Genny Six - Personnel Specialist	Journal #4
11/02 (M)	Agricultural Issues	
11/04 (W)	Agribusiness (Kevin Bacon), Agricultural Systems Management (Buck Tillotson), and Commodity Marketing (Tom Drinka)	
11/06 (F)	Horticulture (Mari Loehrlein), Agricultural Education (Andy Baker), and Crop Science (Gordon Roskamp)	Activity Cards
11/09 (M)	Agricultural Issues	
11/11 (W)	<i>Nickel and Dimed</i> - Selling in Minnesota	Index Card #10
11/13 (F)	Soil Science and Organic Crops (Joel Gruver), Urban Forestry (Tom Green), and Animal Science (Ken Nimrick)	
11/16 (M)	Costs and Benefits of Education	Final Resume
11/18 (W)	<i>Nickel and Dimed</i> - Evaluation	
11/20 (F)	Agricultural Issues - Global Warming	Journal #5
11/23 (M)	Fall Break - No Classes	
11/25 (W)	Fall Break - No Classes	
11/27 (F)	Fall Break - No Classes	
11/30 (M)	Agricultural Issues - Global Warming	
12/02 (W)	Debates	
12/04 (F)	Debates	
12/07 (M)	Debates	Journal #6
12/09 (W)	Agricultural Issues - Global Warming	Issue Paper #3
12/11 (F)	Wrap-up Session, and Course Evaluation	Final Journal Entry

12/16 (W) Final Exam at 8:00 AM

Note - The list of assignments is not complete. Please expect additional assignments as the term progresses.

**OFFICE HOURS AND CLASS SCHEDULE  
Fall '09 Semester**

**Name: Danny E. Terry**

**Office Phone: 298-4688**

**Cell Phone: 255-5402**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
7:00 -- 7:30	Prepare for Classes		Prepare for Classes		Prepare for Classes
7:30 -- 8:00	Prepare for Classes		Prepare for Classes		Prepare for Classes
8:00 -- 8:30	120 Agri Society		120 Agri Society		120 Agri Society
8:30 -- 9:00	120 Agri Society		120 Agri Society		120 Agri Society
9:00 -- 9:30	120 Agri Society		120 Agri Society		120 Agri Society
9:30 - 10:00	120 Agri Society		120 Agri Society		120 Agri Society
10:00 - 10:30	120 Agri Society		120 Agri Society		120 Agri Society
10:30 - 11:00	120 Agri Society	Office Hours	120 Agri Society	Office Hours	120 Agri Society
11:00 - 11:30	120 Agri Society	Office Hours	120 Agri Society	Office Hours	120 Agri Society
11:30 - 12:00	120 Agri Society		120 Agri Society		120 Agri Society
12:00 - 12:30	Office Hours		Office Hours		
12:30 -- 1:00	Office Hours		Office Hours		
1:00 -- 1:30		MDH Volunteer			
1:30 -- 2:00		MDH Volunteer			
2:00 -- 2:30		MDH Volunteer			
2:30 -- 3:00		MDH Volunteer			
3:00 -- 3:30		MDH Volunteer			
3:30 -- 4:00		MDH Volunteer			
4:00 -- 4:30		MDH Volunteer			
4:30 -- 5:00		MDH Volunteer			
5:00 -- 5:30					
5:30 -- 6:00					
Evening					

**Final Grade:** 2000 points = A; 1700 points = B; 1400 points = C; 1100 points = D

	<u>Points Possible</u>		<u>Points Accumulated</u>	
	Basic	Bonus	Basic	Bonus
Assignments	300	25	_____	_____
Campus Activities	300	125	_____	_____
Journal	300	50	_____	_____
Issue Paper #1	25		_____	_____
Issue Paper #2	75		_____	_____
Issue Paper #3	150		_____	_____
Debate #1	100	25	_____	_____
Debate#2	150	25	_____	_____
Final Exam	150		_____	_____
Class Participation	<u>450</u>	<u>50</u>	_____	_____
Total Points	2000	300	_____	_____

### POINT GUIDELINES

**Assignments** -- 300 maximum basic points; 25 bonus points. Generally each assignment will be worth 20 points. Danny may adjust points for individual assignments (quizzes may also be included). Students who satisfactorily complete all assignments/quizzes earn 25 bonus points.

**Campus Activities** -- 300 maximum basic points; 25 bonus points. Each activity completed receives 20 points. Similar activities will be counted only once. Students who satisfactorily complete 15 activities (submitting each unit of five cards on-time) with at least two activities in each of the four categories **and** “Volunteer Work” in Section D earns 25 bonus points. An additional maximum of 100 points from the Organization/Leadership category is available via joining and/or becoming an officer in various campus organizations.

**Journal** -- 300 maximum basic points; 50 bonus points. Generally, all submissions (with the exception of the last journal entry) are worth 40 points per submission. The remainder (60 points) will be allocated for the last submission. The 50 bonus points are received if all required journal entries (including the summary entry at the end of the semester) are completed satisfactorily and on time.

**Issue Papers** -- 25 maximum points for Issue Paper #1; 75 maximum points for Issue Paper #2; and 150 maximum points for Issue Paper #3.

**Debates** -- 100 maximum points for Debate #1 and 150 maximum points for Debate #2. The winning team (as decided by student judges) of each debate will receive 25 bonus points.

**Final Exam** -- 150 maximum points. The final exam will be of an essay format and address specific agricultural issues and the FYE book discussed during the semester.

**Class Participation** -- 450 maximum basic points; 50 bonus points. Students may receive 10 points for participating in each of the 45 sessions attended and 50 bonus points for **100% attendance**. Danny may adjust points based on factors such as tardiness or make-up work related to excused absences.