

Dr. Burt
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MW 1:00-1:50 plus a Tour Day
BalE 118 & Other Locations as Assigned

DISCOVERING AGRIBUSINESS AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

AREc 121, Fall 2007
(CRN 12710; 2-Credits, P/N)

Course Objective: That you will acquire a working knowledge of the concepts, principles and terminology of agricultural business management and agricultural economics in general through participation in classroom activities, completion of assigned research and writing projects, and involvement in case studies and a field trip.

Prerequisites: Freshman or sophomore standing and/or interest in exploring a new major or minor in the Agricultural & Resource Economics Department.

**Course
Grading:**

This 2.0 credit class is graded on a Pass/No-Pass basis. To earn a Passing grade, students are expected to participate in all class meetings and to complete all assignments in a timely manner. Concise and well written reports and papers are expected. An excused absence or assignment submission delay is expected to be approved in advance by the instructor. Additional make-up assignments may be required at the discretion of the instructor. Either an un-excused absence or an incomplete assignment may result in an Incomplete or No-Pass grade for the class.

Sessions: The detailed schedule and possible topical areas are:

Monday, September 24

Topic: Introductory material.

1. Overview of the topical content and general approach to the class.
2. Determine student interests & backgrounds through discussions in class and submission of written student profiles. Discuss possible refinements to the course content.

Assignments:

1. Spend some time surfing through the AREc website: <http://arec.oregonstate.edu/>
2. Also take a look at the listing of AREc course offerings: click on <http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/> Then click Search Class Listings, Search All Schedules of Classes, and then finally Agricultural and Resource Economics to see the complete list of AREc courses. Clicking on any specific AREc course will bring up additional information including the catalogue description for the class.
3. Review any handout materials provided for Wednesday, September 26.

Wednesday, September 26

Session Leader: Dr. Greg Perry, Interim Head, AREc Department

Topic:

1. General overview of AREc departmental philosophy and functions: Academic Programs, Extension Service, and Research.
2. Overview of personal interests in academic programs, Extension and research.

Assignments:

1. Review the materials and ideas presented at this session.
2. Review any handout materials provided for Monday, October 1. Please pay special attention to the Undergraduate Program button on the AREc website. The direct URL is: http://arec.oregonstate.edu/ug_pgm/intro.html

Monday, October 1

Session Leader: Tjodie Richardson, AREc Head Advisor

Topic:

1. Provide a general view of majors and minors within AREc.
2. Discuss handout materials related to major and minor set-ups.
3. Provide an overview of the 4-year planning process

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session
2. Review any handout materials provided for Wednesday, October 3. Please pay special attention to the College of Ag Sciences (CAS) website Student button. You may get to it through the OSU homepage: <http://oregonstate.edu> Click on Academics, then on Agricultural Sciences, and then finally on Students. Or you may use this direct URL: <http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/students>

Wednesday, October 3

Session Leader: Tjodie Richardson, AREc Head Advisor

Topic:

1. Complete an overview of the AREc advising process.
2. Provide an overview of the programs/services provided by College of Ag Sciences Academic Programs Office.
3. Review related handout materials.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session.
2. Study the paper on biofuels, OSU Extension Service Special Report 1078; it is available on the AREc website homepage or you can bring up a copy by entering the Extension Oregon Agricultural Information Network (OAIN)

website homepage at: <http://oregonstate.edu/oain/> [If you don't have Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer, be sure to click on the Adobe Reader button at the bottom of the OAIN homepage to get a free download so that you can view and print PDF documents.] Then click on the Extension Education Materials green-button at the right of the OAIN homepage. Finally, enter SR 1078 into the search-box to obtain a PDF copy.

3. Review any handout materials provided for Monday, October 8.

Monday, October 8

Session Leader: Dr. Russ Karow, Head, OSU Crop & Soil Science Department

Topic:

1. Issues and Challenges related to an emerging Oregon biofuels industry.
2. Dialogue with students.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session
2. Review any handout materials provided for Wednesday, October 10.
3. Review the Gray Farms website: <http://grayfarmsinc.com>

Wednesday, October 10

Session Leader: Skip Gray, owner/operator of Gray Farms Inc.

Topic:

1. Discuss background, operations and business philosophy.
2. Dialogue with students.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session.
2. Review any handout materials provided for Monday, October 15.

Monday, October 15

Session Leader: Jock Gibson, co-founder of Lochmead Dairy & Dari-Mart Stores

Topic:

1. Discuss background, operations and business philosophy.
2. Dialogue with students.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session.
2. Review any handout materials provided for Wednesday, October 17.
3. Review the Ampac Seed Co. website: <http://www.ampacseed.com>

Wednesday, October 17

Session Leader: George Pugh, owner/operator Pugh Seed Farm and Ampac Seed Company

Topic:

1. Discussion of background, operations and philosophy.
2. Dialogue with students.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session.
2. Review any handout materials provided for the tour on Saturday, October 20.
3. Review any handout materials provided for the next regular class session on Monday, October 22. Also surf: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered>

Saturday, October 20

Session Leaders: We will meet knowledgeable people during the day at various stops.

Arrangements: This is a bring your own lunch and drinks event. We will meet in the parking lot north of Ballard Extension Hall. A specific itinerary will be provided prior to this date. Plan on an early morning departure and travel by commercial bus to various locations associated with our industry guest speakers. We will return to the parking lot by early evening. Please wear sturdy shoes that you can get dirty and be prepared for possible cool/rainy weather. This is a bring-your-own-lunch event. In past years we have eaten lunch on the bus between stops.

Assignment: Prepare a brief paper, no more than 2-3 pages long, which discusses your views on the industry speaker series and the tour. Submit your paper via e-mail attachment to the instructor by no later than Monday, October 29. Early submissions will be appreciated.

Monday, October 22

Session Leaders: Dr. Christian Langpap, AREc faculty member

Topic:

1. Issues and challenges related to endangered species
2. Dialogue with students.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session
2. Review any handout materials provided for Wednesday, October 24.

Wednesday, October 24

Session Leader: Dr. Andrew Plantinga, AREc faculty member

Topic:

1. Issues and challenges related to environmental resource economics.
2. Dialogue with students.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session.
2. Review any handout materials provided for Monday, October 29
3. If you have not already done so, complete the first draft of your 4-year plan and submit it to Tjodie Richardson via e-mail attachment by no later than October 31. Early submissions will be appreciated.

Monday, October 29**Session Leader:** Dr. Monica Fisher, AREc faculty member**Topic:**

1. Issues and challenges related to rural economics.
2. Dialogue with students.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session.
2. Review any handout materials provided for Wednesday, October 31.
3. If not completed already, submit your 4-year plan to Tjodie Richardson via e-mail attachment by no later than Wednesday, October 31.

Wednesday, October 31**Session Leader:** Dr. Thorsten Egelkraut, AREc faculty member**Topic:**

1. Issues and challenges related to agricultural business management.
2. Dialogue with students.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session.
2. Review any handout materials provided for Monday, November 5.
3. Explore the OSU Career Services website: <http://oregonstate.edu/career/>
4. On Monday, November 5, we will meet at OSU Career Services, Kerr Administration Building, Room 8 in the basement.

Monday, November 5**Session Leader:** Mike Alarcon, Career Assistant, OSU Career Services, and OSU BA major**Topic:**

1. Discuss operations and learning opportunities provided to students by Career Services.
2. Dialogue with students

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session.
2. Review any handout materials provided for Wednesday, November 7.

Wednesday, November 7**Session Leader:** Dr. Bart Eleveld, AREc faculty member**Topic:**

1. Issues and challenges related to the economics of whole farm & enterprise budgeting
2. Dialogue with students.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session.
2. Review any handout materials provided for Monday, November 12.

Monday, November 12**Session Leader:** Dr. Jeff Reimer, AREc faculty member**Topic:**

1. Issues and challenges related to international ag markets and trade.
2. Dialogue with students.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session.
2. Review any handout materials provided for Wednesday, November 14.

Wednesday, November 14**Session Leader:** Dr. Larry Lev, AREc faculty member**Topic:**

1. Issues and challenges related to ag marketing and ag policy
2. Dialogue with students.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session.
2. Review any handout materials provided for Monday, November 19.

Monday, November 19**Session Leader:** Dr. JunJie Wu, AREc faculty member**Topic:**

1. Issues and challenges related to natural resource economics
2. Dialogue with students.

Assignments:

1. Review the discussion and materials provided at this session.
2. Review the class critique handout materials provided for the final exam.
3. Complete the writing assignment related to the final exam and submit it to the instructor via e-mail attachment by no later than Friday, November 30.

Final Exam:

1. Special time — Friday, December 7 at 7:30 a.m. in BalE 118.
2. Includes a continental breakfast and an informal evaluation of the class.