

*Agriculture and Society*  
**AGED 2304**

**FACULTY INFORMATION**

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**If Texas Tech University campus operations are required to change because of health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is possible that this course will move to a fully online delivery format. Should that be necessary, students will need to have access to a webcam and microphone for remote delivery of the class. Additionally, students will need to have access to high speed internet and a reliable device to access the course.**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

*Pre-requisites:* None

**Required or Recommended Textbooks**

*none*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES**

An examination of relationships between agriculture and society, the environment, and population. Emphasis on agriculture's use of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

*This course satisfies the Texas Tech University core curriculum requirement in social and behavioral sciences.*

**The objective of the social and behavioral sciences in a core curriculum is to increase the student's knowledge of how social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas. Such knowledge will better equip students to understand themselves and the roles they play in addressing the issues facing humanity.**

*This course satisfies the Texas Tech University multicultural course general education requirement.*

**Students graduating from Texas Tech University should be able to demonstrate awareness**

**and knowledge of distinctive cultures or subcultures, including but not limited to ethnicity, gender, class, political systems, religions, languages, or human geography.**

*Learning Outcomes – Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- 1. Demonstrate intercultural awareness, knowledge, and skills in written, verbal, and behavioral activities.**
- 2. Exhibit the ability to engage constructively with individuals and groups, across diverse social contexts.**
- 3. Appraise privilege relationships at different levels (interpersonal, local, regional, national, and international) and explain how these relationships affect the sociocultural status of individuals and groups.**
- 4. Identify historical foundations of agriculture.**
- 5. Discuss advancements in agriculture and their impact on society.**
- 6. Determine agriculture’s impact on population change in the United States.**
- 7. Identify difference between American Agriculture and the World.**

*Coordinating Board Statement on Social Responsibility*

**To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.**

*Course Requirements:*

- **Attend class**
- **Written assignments**
- **Computer access to the Internet**
- **Complete projects outside of class**
- **Participate in class and group discussions**

## **SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES**

### **Course Assignments**

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. If you miss class for something, you should have your assignment submitted prior to the class start time. Emailed assignments will only be allowed if arranged in advance with the instructor. Late assignments will not be accepted without a prior agreement between the student and the instructor.

#### Assignments

- 1. Weekly discussion questions** – For each topic covered in this course, there will be a daily discussion question. A discussion board will be used in Blackboard so that you may view responses from your classmates, but you will not be required to respond to other students’ posts. For this assignment, you will post a simple one paragraph response to the prompting question.
- 2. Multicultural Guest Speaker Reflection** – you will have four multicultural guest speakers during the semester. You will submit a reflection, no longer than one page, on what

knowledge was gained regarding the individual's home culture. These will be submitted on Blackboard.

3. Three Exams
4. Attendance Grade you will receive a professionalism grade for attendance and participation.

**Course Grading Scale**

	<u>Percentage</u>
A	90.00-100.00 (770-860 Points)
B	80.00-89.99 (685-769)
C	70.00-79.99 (600-684)
D	60.00-69.99 (515-599)
F	less than 60 (Below 515 Points)

<b>COURSE ASSIGNMENTS and EXPECTATIONS</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Multicultural Speaker reflection assignments	300	
Attendance (Professionalism) based on 13 weeks or Weekly Discussion Questions for alternate assignment due to COVID-19 (20 points each)	260	
Exam 1	100	
Exam 2	100	
Exam 3	100	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>860</b>	
Extra Credit (Mrs. Stone's survey)	30 points (3 added to average)	

<b>Multicultural Learning Outcomes</b> <i>Upon completion of this course, students will:</i>	<b>Assessments/Experiences</b>
1. Demonstrate intercultural awareness, knowledge and skills in written, verbal, and behavioral activities.	Guest Lectures Cultural Bio (discussion)

2. Exhibit the ability to engage constructively with individuals and groups across diverse social contexts.	Cultural Bio (discussion) Guest Lectures Weekly Discussion
3. Appraise privilege relationships at different levels (interpersonal, local, regional, national, and international) and explain how these relationships affect the sociocultural status of individuals and groups.	Cultural Autobiography Guest Lectures
<b>Agricultural Education Learning Outcomes</b> <i>Upon completion of this course, students will:</i>	<b>Assessments/Experiences</b>
4. Identify historical foundations of agriculture.	Weekly Discussion
5. Discuss advancements in agriculture and their impact on society.	Weekly Discussion
6. Determine agriculture's impact on population change in the United States.	Demographics of an Agriculturalist
7. Identify difference between American Agriculture and the World	Weekly Discussion

## COURSE POLICIES

### Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted, and students who turn in late assignments will receive a score of "0" for that assignment. If an emergency arises that will require students to turn an assignment in late, or if a student will be absent for a university-approved function, they will be required to submit documentary proof of the emergency or the university function. If an emergency does arise, students should call the instructor at (806-742-2816), immediately. For absences related to university functions, students must work with instructor at least two weeks in advance to create a plan for completion of missed work.

### Class Attendance

Class attendance is critical. Each class will include discussion and information that is vital to a student's success in the course. For that reason, absences are strongly discouraged. Assignments due on the missed day may still be considered "on time" as long as they are delivered to your instructor or uploaded to Blackboard on or before class time on day they are due.

- Students with an unsatisfactory record of attendance will forfeit 10% of the points allocated for professionalism and in-class activities for **each** occurrence starting on the second **unexcused** absence. **More than ten unexcused absences (11 or more) may result in the student failing the course.**
- 100 x .1 = 10 points; or one letter grade.
  - ***A student with a 90 (810 points out of 900) on assignments, with four unexcused absences receives a 70 for attendance. New average = 88***

Absence for EXAMS – If a student is absent for an exam and does not make arrangements with the professor or assistant prior to the exam time, the student will not be allow to make up the exam.

Absence due to extended illness, injury, or immediate family deaths - The Center for Campus Life is responsible for notifying the campus community of student illnesses, immediate family deaths and/or student death. Generally, in cases of student illness or immediate family deaths, the notification to the appropriate campus community members occur when a student is absent from class for four (4) consecutive days with appropriate verification. It is always the student's responsibility for missed class assignments and/or course work during their absence. The student is encouraged to contact the faculty member immediately regarding the absences and to provide verification afterwards. The notification from the Center for Campus Life does not excuse a student from class, assignments, and/or any other course requirements. The notification is provided as a courtesy. In case of an illness that will require absence from class for more than one week, the student should notify his or her academic dean who will inform all of the student's instructors. (p.46, *The Texas Tech University Catalog*)

Absence due to religious observance - The Texas Tech University Catalog states that a student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Absence due to officially approved trips – The Texas Tech University Catalog states that the person responsible for a student missing class due to a trip should notify the instructors of the departure and return schedule in advance of the trip. The student may not be penalized and is responsible for the material missed.

### **Use of Blackboard**

This course, including exams, will be supported by Blackboard. I would suggest you set aside a few minutes each day to log on to Blackboard and check your grades, print assignment guidelines/rubrics, review class PowerPoints, etc.. Here's how you log in:

- a. go to [www.ttu.blackboard.com](http://www.ttu.blackboard.com)
- b. click "Log In To Blackboard"
- c. enter your username and password (contact the library to get these if you don't already have them)
- d. click on the name of the course
- e. click on the icon representing your need

### ***Grade Dispute Policy***

At some point in this course, you may disagree with a grade you receive on an assignment. In cases such as this, you should schedule a meeting with your instructor to discuss your concerns. Here are some guidelines to follow in the case of a grade dispute:

- Before scheduling a meeting to discuss your concerns, review the assignment guidelines and grading rubric so that you fully understand the requirements of the assignment.
- If you still have a concern about the grade you received, e-mail your instructor to schedule a meeting. You must do this within seven (7) days of receiving the assignment back. After seven days, no assignment grades will be considered for change.
- Bring your graded assignment to the meeting you schedule.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

#### *Academic Misconduct*

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work that they have not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders

liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. Additional information can be found on pages 46-47 of *The Texas Tech University Catalog*.

Cheating: Dishonesty on examinations and quizzes or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination or quiz, obtaining information during an examination from the examination paper or otherwise from another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry to or unauthorized presence in an office are instances of cheating.

Plagiarism: Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore any student who fails to give credit for quotations or an essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines, and other reference works, or from the themes, reports, or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

Software Use: Students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

As a result of completing registration at Texas Tech University, every student agrees to the following statement: "I understand that Texas Tech University expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty, and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

#### *Civility in the Classroom*

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to ensure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in the class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from using cellular phones, text messaging devices, pagers or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class.

#### *ADA Compliance Statement*

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services Office in 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405 Office of the Ombudsman

#### *Office of the Ombudsman*

The Office of the Ombudsman is available to assist students with any conflict or problem that has to do with being a student at Texas Tech University. You may visit the Ombudsman in 237 Student Union Building or call 742-4791.

Course Calendar

<b>Week</b>	<b>Class Weekly Topic*</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
<b>1</b>	Introduction and Population Changes	
<b>2</b>	Agricultural Production US and Texas	
<b>3</b>	Agriculture and Education; Cultural Diversity	
<b>4</b>	Farmers and Ranchers – Stewards of the Land	
<b>5</b>	Immigration Issues	
	Watch Multicultural Guest Speaker Video #1	Reflection Due
		<b>EXAM 1 (online)</b>
<b>6</b>	Agricultural Labor	
<b>7</b>	Commercial vs. Family Farming	
<b>8</b>	Natural, Organic, or Conventional	
<b>9</b>	Water Issues	
	Watch Multicultural Guest Speaker Video #2	Reflection Due
		<b>EXAM 2 (online)</b>
<b>10</b>	Cultural Diversity – Defined and Explored	
<b>11</b>	Pollution; Global Warming/Climate Change	
<b>12</b>	Animal Welfare vs. Animal Rights	
<b>13</b>	Ethical Issues in Animal Agriculture	
<b>14</b>	Food Security; Food Safety (ONLINE ONLY) No Class this week as it is Thanksgiving week	
	Watch Multicultural Guest Speaker Video #3	Reflection Due
		<b>EXAM 3 (online)</b>
	<b>Final (See University Schedule)</b>	

\*Note. Calendar is subject to change. Readings will be assigned as needed.

## COVID Specific Information

### Illness-Based Absence Policy

If at any time during this semester you feel ill, in the interest of your own health and safety as well as the health and safety of your instructors and classmates, you are encouraged *not* to attend face-to-face class meetings or events. Please review the steps outlined below that you should follow to ensure your absence for illness will be excused. These steps also apply to not participating in synchronous online class meetings if you feel too ill to do so and missing specified assignment due dates in asynchronous online classes because of illness.

1. If you are ill and think the symptoms might be COVID-19-related:
  - a. Call Student Health Services at 806.743.2848 or your health care provider. After hours and on weekends contact TTU COVID-19 Helpline at [TBA].
  - b. Self-report as soon as possible using the [Dean of Students COVID-19 webpage](#). This website has specific directions about how to upload documentation from a medical provider and what will happen if your illness renders you unable to participate in classes for more than one week.
  - c. If your illness is determined to be COVID-19-related, all remaining documentation and communication will be handled through the Office of the Dean of Students, including notification of your instructors of the period of time you may be absent from and may return to classes.
  - d. If your illness is determined not to be COVID-19-related, please follow steps 2.a-d below.
  
2. If you are ill and can attribute your symptoms to something other than COVID-19:
  - a. If your illness renders you unable to attend face-to-face classes, participate in synchronous online classes, or miss specified assignment due dates in asynchronous online classes, you are encouraged to visit with either Student Health Services at 806.743.2848 or your health care provider. Note that Student Health Services and your own and other health care providers may arrange virtual visits.
  - b. During the health provider visit, request a “return to school” note;
  - c. E-mail the instructor a picture of that note;
  - d. Return to class by the next class period after the date indicated on your note.

Following the steps outlined above helps to keep your instructors informed about your absences and ensures your absence or missing an assignment due date because of illness will be marked excused. You will still be responsible to complete within a week of returning to class any assignments, quizzes, or exams you miss because of illness.



## **Addressing Accommodation Requests from High-Risk Students Returning to Campus**

Texas Tech University is taking considerable measures to provide effective social distancing and sanitation protocols as we prepare to return to campus in the Fall. We need to be mindful that, because of underlying health conditions, some students will be at higher risk for COVID-19. Other students, although healthy themselves, might live with someone who has compromising health conditions. Students in one or both of these two categories might request accommodations or alternatives to fulfill course requirements to avoid potential exposure to the virus.

The Office of the Provost authorizes instructors of record (IoRs), in coordination with their department chairs, academic advisors, and academic associate deans, with the flexibility necessary to make instructional accommodations for students to avoid exposure to COVID-19. Accommodations might include, as examples, alternatives to face-to-face group assignments, remote learning such as online instruction or off-site activities, changing to an online section of the same course or to an independent study with the same learning objectives as the original course, or approval of a substitute course that is offered online and can fulfill the same degree requirements of the original course.

Keep in mind the following criteria when considering making an accommodation for a student: (1) whether the requested accommodation would make a substantive alteration of the course material or objectives; (2) whether the accommodation provides an equally effective alternative to the original objectives or activities of the class; and (3) whether the accommodation can be uniformly applied should more than one student request it. If the IoR can satisfactorily address these three requirements for accommodation, and is comfortable providing it, then it is appropriate to do so. If the IOR feels unable to provide accommodation that satisfies these three criteria or is unsure how the requested accommodation can be provided, the IoR is encouraged to contact their academic associate dean's office for guidance. Students should also be advised to follow the steps for reporting illness-related absences outlined on the [Dean of Students COVID-19 webpage](#).

If a high-risk student asks for a substantial alteration to the essential elements of the class, then the IoR, advisor, or associate dean should suggest that the student work with SDS to provide a Letter of Accommodation (LOA).

### **Facial Covering Policy**

The Texas Tech University System has implemented a mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests that there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Because of the potential for transmission of the virus, and to be consistent with the University's requirement, students in this class are to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Observing safe distancing practices within the classroom by spacing out and wearing a mask/facial covering will greatly improve our odds of having a safe and healthy in-person class experience. Any student choosing not to wear a mask/facial covering during class will be directed to leave the class and will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work.

## **In the Event a Class Member has a Positive Case**

If a class member in our class has a positive case, TTU system and university-wide guidance and protocols will be observed. Please see the links below for further information and what to expect.

### **Student Health Services**

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/studenthealth/>

### **Student Affairs COVID-19**

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentaffairs/SACOV1D19.php>

### **Student COVID-19 Protocol**

[https://www.depts.ttu.edu/communications/emergency/coronavirus/provostdocs/Student\\_COVID-19\\_Flowchart\\_07-21-20.pdf](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/communications/emergency/coronavirus/provostdocs/Student_COVID-19_Flowchart_07-21-20.pdf)

### **Texas Tech Commitment**

<http://www.ttu.edu/commitment/>