SYLLABUS: AG ECON 250
Spring Semester 2017
10:30-11:20AM, M.W.F. in Krannert G-16
Prof. Otto Doering
KRAN 569

M Jan.  9  Introduction to the class; resources/economics - institutions/history, Class paper, WSJ, and start discussion of resource dependency

PURCHASE TEXT at COPYMAT AND START READING

Agricultural History Section:

W Jan.  11  Resource Dependency of Civilizations (Plow that Broke the Plains – video)
F Jan  13  History of Agriculture and its development in Europe
M Jan.  16  Martin Luther King Day
W Jan.  18  Utilizing our Knowledge Resources (When is a fact a fact)
F Jan.  20  Agricultural History, Continued
M Jan.  23  Agricultural History – Location Theory (Von Thunen) & Erie Canal (Vid)
W Jan.  25  Quiz on History, etc.; Begin Climate – temperature

Climate/Weather and the Geography of its Impacts:

F Jan.  27  Climate Continued – precipitation, capacity to hold water & climatic regions
M Jan.  30  Climate - effects on agriculture and resources – Rain & Temperature Distrib.
W Feb.  1  Climate Change - impacts of change, and the climate water nexus
F Feb.  3  Climate Change Projections - alternative policies & economic issues
M Feb.  6  Quiz on Climate; Begin Economic Principles

Basic Economic Concepts:

W Feb.  8  Economic Principles – supply and demand, marginal analysis
F Feb. 10 Production Economics - induced technological innovation

M Feb 13 Regional Specialization – Ricardo, the theory

W Feb. 15 Regional Specialization – working through examples
First Group Paper Assignment

F Feb. 17 Trade Issues – why there are barriers – fear of protection

M Feb. 20 President’s Day – U.S. President’s role in agriculture & resources
First Group Paper Due

W Feb. 22 Economic Fallout - balance of payments, value of the dollar, etc.

F Feb. 24 Exam covering everything so far

Food Production, Technology and Government Policy in the US:

M Feb. 27 U.S. Agriculture – diversity of climate and resources
Second Group Paper Assignment

W Mar. 1 Historical background (Vid) – role of technological change

F Mar. 3 Issues (Vid) - nature and purpose of agricultural policy
Second Group Paper Due

M Mar. 6 Drivers of US agriculture – today’s farming
(“Farmland” film)

Japan; Agricultural Modernization and Industrial Development:

W Mar. 8 Quiz on U.S. agriculture/history/technology – Begin Japanese history

F Mar. 10 Nature of Japanese development – slides

SPRING BREAK

M Mar. 20 Japan - growth pattern, trade and policy

W Mar. 22 Japan continued:
Current Global Resource and Economic Issues


M Mar. 27 Global Economic Issues – European problems, etc.

W Mar. 29 Global Economic Issues – exchange rates, trade, employment, etc.

F Mar. 31 Exam covering U.S., Japan, and Global Issues

Demography and its issues

M April 3 Demography and Population - as a world issue (vid)

Third Group Paper Assignment

W April 5 Demography, Continued

F April 7 Immigration – causes/effects & benefits/costs

Third Group Paper Due

Resource and Food Issues

M April 10 Global resources for food production; land, water, climate,

Fourth Group Paper Assignment

W April 12 Resources & Climate, Cont. and food security

F April 14 Food Security -

Fourth Group paper Due

M April 17 Ensuring food for the future? – What is to be done?

W April 19 Quiz – Demography, Resources and Food – start water availability, Etc.

Water Resource Issues:

F April 21 Property rights and common resource water issues

M April 24 Water quality and sustainability

W April 26 Sustainability Issues; carrying capacity & dynamic resource constraints

F April 28 Review Class (and evening) review sessions