SYLLABUS: AG ECON 250
Spring Semester 2018
10:30-11:20AM, M.W.F. in Krannert G-16
Prof. Otto Doering
KRAN 569

M Jan.  8  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. 10  Resource Dependency of Civilizations (Plow that Broke the Plains – video)

F Jan. 12  History of Agriculture and its development in Europe

M Jan. 15  Martin Luther King Day

W Jan. 17  Agricultural History, Continued

F Jan. 19  Agricultural History – Location Theory (Von Thunen & Erie Canal Vid)

M Jan. 22  Quiz on History, etc.; Begin Climate - Temperature

W Jan. 24  Utilizing Knowledge Resources – When is a fact a fact? (Prof. Howard)

Climate/Weather and the Geography of its Impacts:

F Jan. 26  Climate Continued – precipitation, capacity to hold water & climatic regions

M Jan. 29  Climate - effects on agriculture and resources – Rain & Temperature Distrib.

W Jan. 31  Climate Change – the science behind it & the future (Prof. Chavas)

F Feb. 2  Climate Change Projections - alternative policies & economic issues

M Feb. 5  Quiz on Climate; Begin Economic Principles

Basic Economic Concepts:

W Feb. 7  Economic Principles – supply and demand, marginal analysis
F Feb. 9 Production Economics - induced technological innovation

M Feb 12 Regional Specialization – Ricardo, the theory

W Feb. 14 Regional Specialization – working through examples

First Group Paper Assignment

F Feb. 16 Trade Issues – why there are barriers – fear of protection

M Feb. 19 President’s Day – U.S. President’s role in agriculture & resources

First Group Paper Due

W Feb. 21 Economic Fallout - balance of payments, value of the dollar, etc.

F Feb. 23 Exam covering everything so far

Food Production, Technology and Government Policy in the US:

M Feb. 26 U.S. Agriculture – diversity of climate and resources

Second Group Paper Assignment

W Feb. 28 Historical background (Vid) – role of technological change

F Mar. 2 Issues (Vid) - nature and purpose of agricultural policy

Second Group Paper Due

M Mar. 5 Drivers of US agriculture – today’s farming

(“Farmland” film)

Japan; Agricultural Modernization and Industrial Development:

W Mar. 7 Quiz on U.S. agriculture/history/technology – Begin Japanese history

F Mar. 9 Nature of Japanese development – slides

SPRING BREAK

M Mar. 19 Japan - growth pattern, trade and policy

W Mar. 21 Japan continued:
**Current Global Resource and Economic Issues**


M Mar.  26 Global Economic Issues – strategic resources, etc.

W Mar.  28 Global Economic Issues – exchange rates, trade, employment, etc.

F Mar.  30 Exam covering U.S., Japan, and Global Issues

**Demography and its issues – Professor Waldorf**

M April  2 Demography and Population - as a world issue (vid)  
*Third Group Paper Assignment*

W April  4 Demography, Continued

F April  6 Immigration – causes/effects & benefits/costs  
*Third Group Paper Due*

**Resource and Food Issues**

M April  9 Global resources for food production; land, water, climate,  
*Fourth Group Paper Assignment*

W April  11 Resources & Climate, Cont. and food security

F April  13 Food Security - (Prof. Ejeta)  
*Fourth Group paper Due*

M April  16 Ensuring food for the future? – What is to be done?

W April  18 Quiz – Demography, Resources and Food – start water availability, Etc.

**Water Resource Issues:**

F April  20 Property rights and common resource water issues

M April  23 Water quality and sustainability

W April  25 Sustainability Issues; carrying capacity & dynamic resource constraints

F April  27 Review Class (and evening) review sessions