

Course Number: AGR-325

Course Title: Agribusiness Sustainability

I. Course Details

- **Course description:** This course is an introduction to how economic factors impact the sustainability of global food production and agribusiness. The course will devote significant time covering the fundamental principles of agribusiness and how sustainability issues will impact the economic sustainability of agribusiness currently and into the future. At the completion of this course, students will be able to: 1) determine the environmental impacts of agribusiness decisions, 2) analyze global issues that have an economic impact on agricultural development, 3) evaluate the influence of diverse opinions that various stakeholders have on agribusiness sustainability, and 4) calculate the monetary impact that changes in agricultural production will have on agribusiness profitability.
- **Program Learning Outcomes:**
 - Synthesize ideas and think critically to foster agribusiness sustainability.
 - Demonstrates career readiness skills that are important to employers.
 - Summarize the connection between agribusiness principles and industry practices.
- **Student Course learning outcomes:** At the completion of this course students will be able to:
 - 1) determine the environmental impacts of agribusiness decisions,
 - 2) analyze global issues that have an economic impact on agricultural development,
 - 3) evaluate the influence of diverse opinions that various stakeholders have on agribusiness sustainability, and
 - 4) calculate the monetary impact that changes in agricultural production will have on agribusiness profitability.
- **Doane Core LAR or FAK Outcomes:** None
- **Course credit hours:** 3 Semester Credits
- **Textbook/Supplemental Reading:** E-book
 - **Title:** Agricultural Sustainability
 - **Author:** Elisa Gonzalez
 - **Edition/Publisher:** Delve Publishing
 - **ISBN #:** 9781773617862
 - [Doane Library Link](#)
- **Additional resources required by the student:** None
- **Minimum Technology Suggestions:**
 - Reliable computer and internet connection
 - Web browser access (Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Safari)
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader (free)
 - Word processing software -Microsoft or Google Docs
 - Webcam and mic

II. Instructional Details

- **Instructional Approach:**
- **Learning Management System:** Canvas <https://doane.instructure.com>

III. Course Evaluation

Grade Scale

Assignment of letter grades is based on a percentage of points earned. The letter grade will correspond with the following percentages achieved. All course requirements must be completed before a grade is assigned.

Assignment Breakdown:

Intro Discussion - 10 pts

Eight weekly Yellowdig discussion posts (30 pts ea.) – 240 points

Eight weekly reading analysis questions (30 pts ea.) – 240 points

Eight weekly mini-projects/journals (60 pts ea.) – 480 points

One research project – 960 points

Total Course Points: 1,930

Course Preparation, & Participation

A student is expected to be prompt and regularly attend on ground and distance learning classes in their entirety. Regular engagement is expected for on-line courses. This is a condensed, fast-paced course. Preparation for class means reading the assigned readings and reviewing all information required for that week. Participation in class discussions is an integral part of the overall student experience and grade.

Course Attendance Policy

You should plan to work on this course every day. This means that you must have a reliable and consistent internet connection throughout the duration of the course. This is a condensed, fast-paced course and it would be extremely difficult to catch up after a prolonged absence.

While this is an online course and there are no face-to-face class sessions, we do require one virtual meeting for group work or office hour with instructor. These are held on Zoom. All other assignments and course interactions will utilize Zoom and Canvas technologies.

Late Work

All assignments are expected to be completed and submitted on time unless you discuss a late assignment with your instructor prior to the assignment due date. Unless the instructor otherwise approves late submission prior to the assignment due date, your grade for that assignment will be reduced by 30% for each day it is late.

Submitting Assignments

All assignments, unless otherwise announced by the instructor, must be submitted via Canvas.

IV. Preliminary Class Plans and Topics

Course Schedule/Information – Subject to Change:

Class Session	Topics	Readings	Assessments & Activities Due	Assessments Matched to Learning Outcomes

<p>Week 1 Introduce basic theories/concepts of global agribusiness sustainability</p>	<p>1.1 Explain what ethical business actions are relative to agricultural sustainability 1.2 Explain what socially responsible actions are relative to agricultural sustainability 1.3 Explain what sustainable behaviors are relative to agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Sustainability: Chapter 1 • Agricultural Sustainability: Chapter 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Intro (1hr) • (1)Yellowdig Discussion (2hr) • (2)Reading Analysis Questions (4hr) • (3)Mini-Project/Journal (8hr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 • 2-3 • 3-1,4
<p>Week 2 Sustainable Irrigation Practices in agribusiness</p>	<p>2.1 Describe the roles and examples of civic responsibilities are relative to agricultural sustainability 2.2 Describe the roles and examples of corporate governance are relative to agricultural sustainability 2.3 Describe the roles and examples of cooperative governance are relative to agricultural sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Sustainability: Chapter 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowdig Discussion (2hr) • Reading Analysis Questions (4hr) • Mini-Project/Journal (8hr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 • 2-3 • 3-1,4
<p>Week 3 Sustainable Farm Culture Practices</p>	<p>3.1 Explain the environmental impacts of decisions made by agribusiness leaders 3.2 Research and reflect on the environmental impacts of agribusiness decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Sustainability: Chapter 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowdig Discussion (2hr) • Reading Analysis Questions (4hr) • Mini-Project/Journal (8hr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 • 2-3 • 3-1,4
<p>Week 4 Sustainability of Urban Agriculture</p>	<p>4.1 Explain the environmental impacts of decisions made by agribusiness leaders 4.2 Research and reflect on the environmental impacts of agribusiness decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Sustainability: Chapter 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowdig Discussion (2hr) • Reading Analysis Questions (4hr) • Mini-Project/Journal (8hr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 • 2-3 • 3-1,4

<p>Week 5 Sustainability of Dairy Cattle Keeping</p>	<p>5.1 Explain the environmental impacts of decisions made by agribusiness leaders 5.2 Research and reflect on the environmental impacts of agribusiness decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Sustainability: Chapter 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowdig Discussion (2hr) • Reading Analysis Questions (4hr) • Mini-Project/Journal (8hr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 • 2-3 • 3-1,4
<p>Week 6 Sustainability of Beef Cattle Feeding & Ranching</p>	<p>6.1 Research and reflect on the current global issues in agribusiness 6.2 Research and reflect on the current events in agribusiness development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Sustainability: Chapter 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowdig Discussion (2hr) • Reading Analysis Questions (4hr) • Mini-Project/Journal (8hr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 • 2-3 • 3-1,4
<p>Week 7 Sustainability of Non-traditional Farming & Arid vs Semi Arid Conditions</p>	<p>7.1 Evaluate the influence of diversity in agribusiness employees 7.2 Evaluate the influence of diversity in agribusiness customers and consumers 7.3 Evaluate the influence of diversity in agribusiness producers and suppliers 7.4 Evaluate the influence on complexity in agribusiness stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Sustainability: Chapter 8 • Agricultural Sustainability: Chapter 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowdig Discussion (2hr) • Reading Analysis Questions (4hr) • Mini-Project/Journal (8hr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 • 2-3 • 3-1,4
<p>Week 8 Sustainability of Organic Farming</p>	<p>8.1 Evaluate the influence of diversity in agribusiness employees 8.2 Evaluate the influence of diversity in agribusiness customers and consumers 8.3 Evaluate the influence of diversity in agribusiness producers and suppliers 8.4 Evaluate the influence on complexity in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Sustainability: Chapter 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowdig Discussion (2hr) • Reading Analysis Questions (4hr) • Mini-Project/Journal (8hr) • (4)Final Research Project (2hr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 • 2-3 • 3-1,4 • 4-1,2,3,4

	agribusiness stakeholders			
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V. Standard Syllabus Information

Technical Support Contact Information:

If you are in need of technical assistance please access the [Self Service Portal](#). You may reach the Service Center at 402-826-8411 or by email at help@doane.edu.

Academic Integrity:

Fundamental to our mission, our core values, and our reputation, Doane University adheres to high academic standards. Students of Doane University are expected to conduct themselves in a manner reflecting personal and professional integrity. Disciplinary actions may be taken against students whose academic behavior is not congruent with the expectations of the University. Students are responsible for adhering to the standards detailed in this policy. Not being familiar with these standards does not mean that the students will not be accountable for adherence to them. Additional details on the Academic Integrity policy for violating academic integrity are published in the undergraduate and graduate [catalogs](#).

Accommodations:

Any student who thinks they may need an accommodation based upon the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (<https://www.doane.edu/disability-services>) to coordinate reasonable accommodations as soon as possible.

Course Participation:

Doane University expects active participation by a student in a course, whether the course is on-ground or online. A student is expected to be prompt and regularly attend on-ground classes in their entirety. Regular engagement is expected for online courses.

Grade Appeal Process:

Students who believe that their grade was miscalculated due to a mathematical error should contact the instructor within ten (10) days of the grade posting. A student is encouraged to talk with their advisor to offer an assessment of the concern and to clarify the steps of the appeal process. More information is published in the undergraduate and graduate [catalogs](#).

Anti-Harassment Policy:

Doane University, referred to as the "University", is committed to providing a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community. This policy addresses the University's responsibilities under Title IX, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act"). More information is published in the student [handbooks](#).

Syllabus Changes:

The instructor and Doane University reserve the right to make changes as necessary to this course syllabus. All students will be notified of any changes.

Doane Syllabus Addendum:

Each student is responsible for being aware of the policies, resources, and expectations as specified in the Doane Syllabus Addendum located at: <https://www.doane.edu/Syllabus>