

AGRICULTURE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES – CREATIVE APPROACHES TO UNDERSTANDING

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“Agriculture of Developing Countries – Creative Approaches to Understanding” is the title of a new experimental general education course to be offered at Illinois State University during the Fall Semester 1971. The two-semester credit course is designed to provide students with fundamental knowledge concerning the role of agriculture in developing countries. Included are such activities as analysis of agricultural problems, policies, and processes; critical review of relevant literature; creative approaches to understanding; research oriented to special interests of class members.

The course will not emphasize specialized professional instruction. It will strongly encourage a systematic design for further learning, basic processes of disciplined inquiry, and major ideas and values through which men and women give meaning to life. Allowance will be made for enough flexibility so students can freely explore areas of experience and knowledge which have personal meaning for them.

A deliberate attempt will be made to stimulate student creativity, and students will be asked to indicate and justify the grades they should receive for their efforts. Guest instructors will be utilized according to particular interests of students and instructor.

Specific objectives of the course are:

1. To enable the student to become acquainted with the language and literature of developing countries and creative approaches to understanding.
2. To assist the student to evaluate the existing agriculture programs in selected developing countries.
3. To encourage the student to develop an understanding of some basic principles and methods of improving agriculture in developing countries.
4. To stimulate the student to evaluate the means of determining manpower needs and the technical level of education needed for agriculture of developing countries.
5. To provide the environment which will allow the student to evaluate means for selecting and developing a comprehensive program for a specific phase of agriculture for a developing country or region.

The course outline follows:

- I. Creative Approaches to Understanding
 - A. General statements to provide a frame of reference for the creative efforts to be made
 - B. Evaluating creative talent
 - C. Research and guides for interpreting
 - D. Encouraging creativity
- II. Foreign Agricultural Assistance Programs
 - A. Breakdown of types of agencies and organizations
 1. World wide – U.N. related
 2. Regional and multi-national
 3. U. S. Government
 4. Private foundations and agencies
 5. University
 6. Religious
 7. Private business
 - B. Overview of organizations and activities
 1. Location, size, organization
 2. Type of operation, parts of the world

- III. Agriculture and Major Problems in Developing Countries
 - A. Food: Production, nutrition, marketing, storage
 - B. Population: Hunger, trained manpower
 - C. Development: Agrarian reform, mechanization, credit, transportation
- IV. Survey of Existing Conditions – The foundation upon which any change or new program should be based
 - A. Need for the survey
 1. Use
 2. Types
 - B. Facts to be investigated
 1. Man's relationship to the physical environment
 2. Significant historical background
 3. Character of the economy
 4. Agricultural production
 5. Level of living
 6. Population
 7. Family
 8. Education
 9. Housing
 10. Health
 11. Religion
 12. Government
 13. Social institutions
 14. Communications
 - C. Interdependence of facts
- V. Existing Programs in Agriculture

A. South America	D. Africa	G. Other selected countries according to interests
B. Central America	E. Asia	
C. Near East	F. India	
- VI. Technological Change – Principles and Methods of Improving Agriculture in Developing Countries
 - A. Barriers to change
 1. Cultural
 2. Social
 3. Psychological
 - B. Change stimulants
 - C. The change agent
 1. Change begins and ends with people
 2. Teamwork, counterparts, institutions
 3. Some specific problems
 - D. The ethics of planned change
- VII. Reports of Student Case Studies

The required text for the course is: **Traditional Cultures: and the Impact of Technological Change** by George M. Foster, Harper and Row, Publishers, Inc., 49 East 33rd Street, New York, N. Y. 10016. 1962. Reference materials will be selected from a bibliography of more than 200 publications.

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