

Virginia Western Community College

AGR 241

Agricultural Policy, Leadership, and Professional Service

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None.

Course Description

Enhances personal and professional leadership skills to build consensus and collaboratively solve agricultural issues. Uses the Virginia legislative process to track and influence relevant policy. Partners with stakeholders and key agricultural groups to advocate agriculture's importance to society and remove barriers that prevent farm/agribusiness acquisition and transition. Identifies relevant professional service and leadership opportunities that will affect changes for the benefit of agricultural and rural communities. Covers current policy and public programs related to taxation, land use, environmental protection, water quality, population changes, water conservation, climate change and quality of rural life. Reinforces written and oral communication skills.

Semester Credits: 3 Credits. Lecture 3 hours. Total 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Develop leadership skills in order to advocate for the agricultural industry to influence consumer opinion and local, state and national policies through professional service.

Required Materials

Textbook:

Title: [The Future of Food and Agriculture: Trends and Challenges](#)

Author: Rome

Publisher: FAO of the UN

ISBN: 9788-92-5-109551-5

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Lead, delegate, and communicate in a team or group environment
- Advocate for the agricultural industry
- Participate in professional agricultural organizations and meetings

- Influence consumer opinion and local, state, and national agricultural policies
- Identify critical issues impacting the success of agricultural businesses
- Describe the local, state, and national legislative process
- Apply oral, visual, and interpersonal communications skills in general public or food, agriculture, and natural resources situations

Major Topics to be Included

- Collaborative and team problem solving
- Basic and advanced leadership theory
- Personality styles, strengths, and strategies
- Team building skills
- Build consensus among opposing individuals and groups
- Reduce conflict in professional situations
- Building a culture of community service
- Visioning techniques, change management, and group action
- Finance and management of non-profit and professional service businesses
- Ethics and social responsibility in a sustainable culture
- International cultural considerations for future sustainability and mutual success

Notes to Instructors

- Syllabus should state what the course grade will be based on, such as tests, quizzes, projects, a comprehensive final exam, and any other assignments made by the instructor.
- The Department does not allow students to keep or take pictures of exams, but they can review them in office hours or extra time in class.
- A Final Exam or Final Project should be 15-20% of the grade for the overall course.
- The Department uses a 10 point grading scale.
- Comprehensive study of the listed topics is beyond the reasonable expectations of a 15-week course. It is up to the discretion of the instructor to choose which topics are more detailed but each topic should be adequately covered.

[ADA Statement](#) (PDF)

[Title IX Statement](#) (PDF)