

Agricultural Field Study in Various Parts of North America or World
Sustainable Agricultural and Economic Development in Argentina
AGRI 361-3 s.h.
Spring
Department of Agriculture
Western Illinois University

Argentina is a land of extremes, with hectic urban centers contrasting with estancias and gauchos, and can be simultaneously hot in one region and cold in another. The people possess a curiosity, passion, and fervor for life. Evita, the Tango, gauchos and estancias are the country's clichéd attractions, but life here is for living.

Argentina is an enormous country, the eighth largest in the world and the second largest in South America, after Brazil. It is made up of 23 provinces, covers an area of nearly 1.1 million sq. miles, and is 2,170 miles long and 868 miles across at its widest point. The country can be divided roughly into six geographical zones; the fertile central pampas, marshy Mesopotamia in the northeast, the forested Chaco region of the central north, the high plateau of the northwest, the mountainous desert of the west, and the wild and isolated terrain of Patagonia. You can find everything from steamy subtropical jungles to the lofty continental ice cap, and just about any kind of environmental feature in between.

Argentina has become a democracy confidently outgrowing its military past. Beyond the tango clubs of Buenos Aires, this vast South American republic also offers a stunning range of dramatic landscapes and adventure waiting to happen.

INAG 361 is a course designed to provide students with an opportunity to experience another culture and understand agricultural and economic interrelationships in a developing country and in the global economy. The class is a semester long course which will include a travel/study component to Argentina. Specific course objectives are listed in the syllabus. The first component of the course is for the students to research and learn about Argentina. The students

will then have the opportunity to travel/study within the country. The travel experience will be followed up with additional class time to reflect on their experiences.

SYLLABUS

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Instructor:

Michelle Barclay
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Phone: 298-2100
Office Hours: 8:30-12:00 & 1:00-3:00 M-F
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Fax: 309/298-2280
Class Hours: 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Wednesdays
Class Location: KH 226

Course Objectives:

- To investigate the development of the country (economic, environmental, social levels)
- To study soils, crops, livestock, and plants as related to economic importance, distribution, and environment
- To understand trade from other countries' viewpoints and put them into perspective with our own view of exporting and importing
- To understand the economic and agricultural bases of the country
- To understand the political structure of the governments of country and how it relates to ours
- To understand the cultures of another country

Prerequisite: Junior standing and consent of instructor

Student Evaluation:

Class participation	25%
Orientation report	25%
Test	20%
Journal	30%

Course Requirements:

1. Attend all class sessions and to actively participate both during lecture and on the tour.
2. Present an oral and written report on an approved topic for the orientation.
3. The written report is due to Michelle Barclay the day prior to the presentation date.
4. Compile an interpretive journal of your observations and impressions gained during the study tour. You can use notes you take, such as in a diary, photos, clippings, or other material. The journal is due April ____.

Class Schedule – Wednesdays 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
January	Introduction Class Information Planning
January	History of Argentina Getting to Know Each Other Spanish language
January	Geography & Natural Resources Orientation/Health/Safety/Diversity Spanish language
February	Political & Social Issues Religion & Culture Spanish language
February	Education Systems Commerce & Trade Spanish language
February	Spanish language
February	Test Planning Session
March	Travel Tour to Argentina
March	Exchanging Impressions Journal Project Discussion Class Trip Evaluation
March	No Class
April	Journals Due Picture Exchange

