Course Syllabus Summer 2010
AG 3080: Nicaragua - Agricultural and Food Systems

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When: July 8 – 16, 2010

Situation and Location: We have an opportunity to partner with Feed the Children (FTC) and create educational opportunities for youth in El Crucero, Nicaragua. As you may know, Feed the Children is an Oklahoma based organization whose purpose is providing food to the starving around the world.

FTC has a project in Nicaragua that is set on top of a Mountain near a volcano. They have about one acre they would like us to help them develop into a garden. This is significant because currently the people that visit the feeding station do not garden or produce any of their own food. This garden could be a demonstration for the surrounding community to teach them how to supplement their food supply. Using the old adage “we will not be giving them fish, we will teach them to fish” or garden in this case.

Objectives: Introduce students to the history, culture and the sustainability of Nicaragua’s agriculture and environment. This class is designed for students interested in taking research based information from Oklahoma State University and applying it to a project in Nicaragua in order to demonstrate new methods of food production.

What: In addition to the garden project, the class will participate in agricultural and cultural field trips. The class will also hear presentations from academic and non-government professionals about the Nicaraguan food supply.

How Much: The estimated cost is: $1525.00
Names to FTC March 1st
Airfare Due May 1st approximately $900.00 (dependent on fuel prices)
Lodging Due June 1st $625.00
Approximate Trip Total $1525.00 plus tuition which is due on OSU’s schedule

Tuition: $250.00 per credit hour

Credit: This is a 3-hour course during OSU’s summer session.
Local Expenses: Spending money for the market and travel incidentals.
$625.00 (food, lodging and transportation while in Nicaragua, this is included in the Registration fee paid to Feed the Children)

International Airfare from OK to Nicaragua and return: Varies depending on the time of purchase. Students will have the option to schedule their own international airfare, or purchase their ticket through Feed the Children and use their travel arrangement services. I will provide transportation from OSU to the OKC airport and return to OSU.

Course Requirement:
You will be required to participate in a one day gardening/project training the day before we depart for Nicaragua. In Nicaragua, you will be expected to maintain a daily journal throughout the trip, participate in class discussions and contribute to small group assignments. Upon return, you will be expected to make a poster or develop a PowerPoint presentation over viewing your experiences in Nicaragua and what you learned about foreign aid, agriculture, and food supply.

Course Assignments:
• Project Topic Paper (100 pts):

While in Nicaragua we will be given the opportunity to teach the public about growing a vegetable garden, goat production, pasture management even cheese processing. Because of these presentation opportunities, I am assigning you a topic to research and write a ten-page paper with at least five references. The first draft of this paper is due by July 2nd. You will receive feedback from the instructors and your final copy is due July 8th.

Project Topics (Select one and send it to me, I will make sure there are no duplications)
• Planning the Garden OSU Fact Sheet HLA-6004
• Improving Garden Soil Fertility OSU Fact Sheet HLA-6007
• Garden Care OSU Fact Sheet HLA-6013
• Garden Insect Pest Control OSU Fact Sheet HLA-7313
• Garden Disease Symptoms and Control OSU Fact Sheet HLA-6431
• Other Garden Factors
  o Garden Tips
  o Water and Water Quality
  o Weed Control
  o Wildlife Control
• Composting
• Water Conservation
• Goat Production
• Chicken Production
• Pasture Management
• Rainforest Ecology
• Coffee Plantations
• Producing Goat Cheese
• Other topics may be negotiated based on student skills

• Topic Presentation (100 pts):
You will use your Project Paper to prepare a 15 minute presentation on your topic. Once we are in Nicaragua it is expected that you will have the opportunity to share your information with the Nicaraguan Feed the Children project staff and other locals. The in-country presentation may be formal or informal depending on the situation that arises while we are there. I hope you will prepare to the point you are comfortable and confident to share your topic with others.

• Journal (100 pts):

While in-country, you will be expected to maintain a daily journal recording experiences and observations. This should include your interactions with government officials, students, farmers, scientists, and citizens as well as how you feel about these experiences. Be sure to include specific observations related to your sustainability interest. The final 1-2 pages of your journal should detail how this experience has affected you and if it will apply to your future.

• Participation (100 pts):

While in-country, you will be expected to interact with your peers, instructors, government officials, students, farmers, scientists, and citizens. The instructors will lead frequent discussions regarding the daily activities which will require your participation. And most importantly, garden construction.

• Final Presentation (100 pts):

Your final assignment for the course will be to create a research style poster for display or a PowerPoint suitable for public presentation (with at least 30 PowerPoint slides) to a 4-H or student group about your Nicaraguan experience and what you learned about foreign aid, agriculture, food supply, and disseminating research based information.

Grading

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>500</td>
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A  450-500 points
B  400-449 points
C  350-399 points
D  300-349 points
F  Below 300 points

No examinations will be given in this course.

Final course grades will be assigned based on an assessment of each student’s success in meeting the criteria listed above. Letter grade definitions are those stipulated in the Oklahoma State University catalogue.

Course Schedule:
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date, July</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Draft Topical Paper due, 10 pages with 5 references</td>
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| 8         | Meet at OSU for Pre-Trip Orientation and Garden Training  
            Final Topical Paper due |
| 9         | Travel to Nicaragua (You can leave your car in Stillwater. I will drive us to and from the airport in the OSU/4-H Van.) |
| 10        | Travel to the project site, project planning with tentative Educational Programs on the Nicaraguan Food Supply and Agriculture |
| 11        | Cultural Tour: Nicaraguan Church Service and Coffee Plantation tour and other activities |
| 12        | Project Construction |
| 13        | Project Construction Continues |
| 14        | Project Construction and Public Presentations |
| 15        | Cultural Day, Tour a Volcano and Indigenous Market |
| 16        | Return Home |