AGRI 108 Rural Sociology

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Kingery

Office: EST 242

Telephone: 270-745-5966

e-mail: thomas.kingery@wku.edu

Office Hours: Open-Door Policy – Appointments are always encouraged.

Class Hours: Web Based Delivery

Room: N/A

The instructor reserves the right to adapt the course as needed to fit changing scenarios (technological/traditional) that may occur during the time the course is being offered.

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Catalogue Description:
The study of rural social groups and interaction in rural and suburban America as well as in rural areas of the world. The influences of basic concepts of society and culture and the relationship of rural population, class, social institutions, and groups on rural social change.

Relation to Departmental Degree Program (Agriculture): Concentration Elective

Course Credits:
 3

Prerequisite:
 None

Time Requirements:
10 Hours/week

Technology Requirements:
Access to Blackboard

Language Requirements:
English

Technology Requirement:
 Blackboard and dedicated internet connection for MediaSite. For your course project, you will need to use the program Mediasite. As a result, a webcam and microphone are required.

Course Objective:
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify rural Americans and why rural America matters.
2. Evaluate social classes and orders of rural Americans.
3. Analyze rural American values and family dynamics.
4. Recognize rural American education systems and eras of change.
5. Identify trends in religion of rural America.
6. Illustrate production agriculturalists and mature generational agricultural links.
7. Compare and contrast the commonwealth's rural condition.

Text:
        No text. Resources available upon request.

Student Assistance: In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center.

Please **DO NOT** request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Cheating/Plagiarism:
According to the student handbook: a student who commits any act of academic dishonesty **will** receive
      from the instructor a **failing grade** in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected
      or a **failing grade** in the course without possibility of withdrawal. Student committing such acts
      in this class **will receive a failing grade for the course and reported to judicial affairs.**

            Plagiarism in the form of deliberate or reckless representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own without permission in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise.

            Plagiarism can take many forms and there may be a number of reasons why it occurs. The more specific you can be in explaining plagiarism, the less likely the violation is to occur.

                Quote and cite any words that are not your own.

                If you paraphrase the words of another, you must still give proper credit.

ALL JOURNAL ENTRIES MUST CONTAIN 6-8 COLLEGE LENGTH SENTENCES.

Grading:
There will be a total of 1500 possible points. Both exam and final course grades may be adjusted to reflect the average performance of the class at the discretion of the instructor.

Assessment	Points	Total Points
2 Interviews	100	200
15 quizzes	15	225
14 Class Assignments	20	280
1 Presentation (Assignment 15)	100	100
15 Journal Entries	25	375
Midterm Exam	100	100
Final Exam	200	200
		1480

Additional extra credit point opportunities will be given at the discretion of the instructor. All students will have the opportunity to earn these points. <u>DO NOT ASK FOR INDIVIDUAL EXTRA CREDIT POINTS! EXTRA CREDIT POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR EFFORT ABOVE WHAT IS EXPECTED IN CLASS!</u>

<u>**Final Exam:**</u>

Your final exam will be taken at the DL Testing Center. If you cannot come to campus, the testing center will make arrangements for you to take it somewhere else. The testing center can only accommodate a certain number of students and spots DO FILL UP. It is highly recommended that you contact the testing center as soon as you know the date you would like to test in order for them to accommodate your schedule.

 No exceptions will be made!

Final Grades will be assigned based upon the following scale:

Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and higher	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

*Grades will be posted on Blackboard. You are responsible for keeping track of your grades. Blackboard is just a resource to post what you have earned. Be diligent on your record keeping.

Communication Policy:

I will respond to emailed questions within 48 hours during the week (questions posted after noon on Fridays may not receive a response until Monday). Note about Email: Please send proper emails. Make sure to put "AGRI 108 OD" in the subject line and to include your full name in the text. Also, use proper capitalization, spelling, and punctuation. Emails should come from a wku.edu address (emails from other accounts will not be opened).

About On Demand:

This is an On Demand course, which means that there are no due dates. Your expiration date is the only date for the course unless you utilized financial aid. If you have any questions about when you must be complete with your course work, please contact the On Demand office at ondemand@wku.edu. Please make sure to review the [On Demand Guidelines and Procedures](#) to ensure that you understand how to successfully complete an On Demand course.

Student Responsibilities:
1. Students are expected to read the course syllabus and understand the requirements and expectations for the class.
2. Students are expected engage in the course content and assignments.
3. Students are expected to stay on task with class assignments and announcements via blackboard.
4. Students are expected to ask questions or seek assistance from the instructor if having problems in class.
5. Students are expected to track their progress in the class by checking their grades on a regular basis.
6. Students should review the assigned points available to achieve each grade for the class in the course syllabus.
7. Students are expected to review graded assignments in Blackboard.
8. Students will do their own work or face the consequences outlined in the syllabus.
9. Students will not lie, cheat, or whine at any time during the course.
10. Students will receive the grade they have earned.

Overview of "General WKU Helps"

Technical Support

1. WKU Students can call 270-745-7000 for technical support with Blackboard or computer problems. Other information is located at Information Technology or by following the IT Helpdesk link in the left menu bar.

Accessibility Support

1. Student Disability Services provides services to students with disabilities: [WKU's policy](#) can be found by searching the WKU web page.
2. The Counseling & Testing Center provides counseling for students face-to-face: but also their Outreach Services offers a "Here to Help" Web form where you can ask questions

online and have them answered. They also have a 24 hour Help Line for emergencies: 270- 843-4357

Academic Support

1. The Learning Center has offers online tutoring in select subjects to help students succeed in their academic work. Various disciplines also provide more specialized tutoring services (e.g., the Writing Center) and the link below provides a list and map to locations. Some may offer phone or online help, such as the Writing Center.

2. Research Tools

1. WKU Libraries provide help with many research tools and writing tasks.
    a. WKU Libraries' Regional Campus section provides services by mail to distance students, such as interlibrary loan, reserves, etc.
    b. Research Guides for specific majors have been developed by the WKU libraries.
2. Son of Citation Machine: This tool helps format citations in appropriate styles
3. Kentucky Virtual Library provides virtual resources to students attending Kentucky schools.

Student Support of Special Interest for Online Students

1. The Distance Learning website provides a Distance Learning Support Directory listing offices on campus that provide support to distance students, including technical support. Other resources provided include:
    a. The Orientation for Online Learners provides a complete overview of technology required in online classes, and features tutorials on Blackboard, setting up a WKU email account, accessing TopNet (WKUs student information and registration system), course registration, study skills, time management, writing and other academic skills, and even directions to campus and how to get a parking permit should you need to visit.

Other Helps

1. **The Student Handbook** The student handbook contains academic and other policies important to you as a student, such as academic integrity and conduct expectations and grievance procedures.
2. Student Engagement Activity Transcript (SEAT). As a WKU student, you have access to an online tool that permits you to track your activities and produces a vita-like document as a record for you. If you attend events at which your ID card is swiped, the events will appear on your SEAT at some point before the end of the term
3. Career Services Center provides an online self-assessment, called FOCUS, that helps you explore your career options.

Suggested Course Schedules

Below you will find two suggested course schedules to help you organize your studies. These schedules are meant as a guideline to help those who need to complete their course in a certain timeframe.

Need to finish your course within a semester? Here is a suggested course schedule:		
Week	**Assignments**	**Exams**
1	Module 1	
2	Module 2	
3	Module 3	
4	Module 4	
5	Module 5	
6	Module 6	
7	Module 7	Midterm Examination
8	Module 8 and Module 9	
9	Module 10	
10	Module 11	
11	Module 12	
12	Module 13	
13	Module 14	
14	Module 15	
15	Module 16 and Interview Papers	Final Examination

Need to finish your course within seven weeks? Here is a suggested course schedule:		
Week	**Assignments**	**Exams**
1	Module 1, Module 2	
2	Module 3, Module 4	
3	Module 5, Module 6, Module 7	Midterm Examination
4	Module 8, Module 9, Module 10	
5	Module 11, Module 12, Module 13	
6	Module 14, Module 15	
7	Module 16 and Interview Papers	Final Examination