

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. DO NOT ASK FOR INDIVIDUAL EXTRA CREDIT POINTS! EXTRA CREDIT POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR EFFORT ABOVE WHAT IS EXPECTED IN CLASS!**

**Final Exam:**

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](mailto: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 to 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.

## **Course Schedule**

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Below you will find a course schedule to help you organize your studies. This schedule is meant as a guideline to help those who need to complete their course in a certain timeframe.

<b>Need to finish your course within a semester? Here is a course schedule:</b>		
<b>Week</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Exams</b>
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

Interview

65 & Older

- Pick someone that is 65 years old or older to conduct an interview.
- Use the year constructs below to frame in your questions.
- The goal of the assignment is investigative inquiry & research.
- Using APA format, develop a title page, abstract, body, & references to record your results. Use the link below to review and format your paper.
- The interview will only consist of the four areas stated above.
- The paper should be in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. It must be typed. Double spaced.
- If you use recording devices, you must inform the candidate you are interviewing them by voice or tape and gain their permission.
- The length of the paper will be a minimum of 8 pages when using APA appropriately.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Age ranges used for the interview:

- A. 0-16
- B. 16-35
- C. 35-55
- D. 55-65

Format your questions using the following:

- View of rural America
- Societal changes
- Global perspectives
- Work place changes
  - Male/female
  - Cultural diversity
  - Conditions
- Technology present
- Social status
- Economic Changes
- Location
  - Metro.
  - Urban
  - Rural
  - Suburban
- Value changes
- Ethics/morals
- Life changes
  - Personal
  - Professional

\*Please feel free to ask any follow-up or additional questions that you deem as appropriate.

## Interview

### Production Agriculturalist

- Pick someone that is agricultural production to conduct an interview.
- Use the year constructs below to frame in your questions.
- The goal of the assignment is investigative inquiry & research.
- Using APA format, develop a title page, abstract, body, & references to record your results. Use the link below to review and format your paper.
- The interview will only consist of the four areas stated above.
- The paper should be in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. It must be typed. Double spaced.
- If you use recording devices, you must inform the candidate you are interviewing them by voice or tape and gain their permission.
- The length of the paper will be a minimum of 8 pages when using APA appropriately.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Age ranges used for the interview:

- E. 0-16
- F. 16-35
- G. 35-55
- H. 55-65

Below is a list of agricultural production questions. There are many others you may ask. This is just a short list. Feel free to expand on them as necessary.

#### Possible Questions:

- What areas do you farm?
- Do you have a plant or animal farm?
- Do you own acreage? How much?
- How has farming formed your ethics, work ethic, morals, values, etc..?
- What keeps you engaged in the process? What keeps you motivated to continue?
- What are your primary areas of focus? Crops, livestock, etc..?
- What age are you? Will your family take over when you retire?
- Do you rely on subsidies? Do you use value added products as additional income sources?
- Are corporate farms a good idea for rural America?
- Should smaller farms be the standard or the rule?
- Describe your life being raised on the farm?
- What market system do you believe in?
- Will your kids be able to keep the farm?
- What are your best characteristics of living a rural life?

\*Please feel free to ask any follow-up or additional questions that you deem as appropriate.

## AGRI 108 Rural Sociology

### Title Page: (Page 1)

- ✓ Header – last name, year – ex.” Smith, 2012” – left Margin. (occurs on each page)
- ✓ Assignment Title – “Interview of Jane Doe: A Rural Sociological Perspective”. (center on page)
- ✓ Class Title – “Rural Sociology 108” – (Center on page).
- ✓ Full Name – “ John Smith” – Center on page.
- ✓ Date Due – “ February 16, 2012” Center on page.

### Abstract: (Page 2)

- ✓ On the first line of the abstract page, center the word “Abstract” (no bold, formatting, italics, underlining, or quotation marks).
- ✓ On the next line, write a concise summary of the key points of your interview. (Do not indent.)
- ✓ Your abstract should contain at least your interview topic, interview questions, participants, methods, results, data analysis, and conclusions.
- ✓ You may also include possible implications of your interview and future work you see connected with your findings.
- ✓ Your abstract should be a single paragraph double-spaced. Your abstract should be between 150 and 250 words.
- ✓ You must also list keywords from your interview in your abstract. To do this, indent as you would if you were starting a new paragraph, type *Keywords:* (italicized), and then list your keywords

### Body: (5 pages)

- ✓ Main portion of the interview. Describes the conversational tone taking place between you and the subject.
- ✓ Separate portions of the body by age ranges as listed above.
- ✓ Use in-text citations to quote your subject. You must use the APA format for at least four citations within the text.
- ✓ Most of the writing can be in descriptive form. Explaining what was discussed during the interview. If you use the age ranges to break the body into four sections, describe the answers you were given from the subject under each area.

### References: (1 page)

- ✓ Use four additional web references to prep or evaluate your interview process.
- ✓ Two must be journal references and two must be web references.
- ✓ Follow the format below.

#### Sample Journal Reference

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume number(issue number), pages.

Scruton, R. (1996). The eclipse of listening. *The New Criterion*, 15(30), 5-13.

#### Sample Web Reference

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Date of publication). Title of article. *Title of Online Periodical*, volume number(issue number if available). Retrieved from

<http://www.someaddress.com/full/url/>

Bernstein, M. (2002). 10 tips on writing the living Web. *A list apart: For people who make websites*, 149. Retrieved from

<http://www.alistapart.com/articles/writeliving>