

AGED 4990, Section 358
Career Exploration in
Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
Fall 2005
Course Syllabus

Instructor

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Office Hours

Students may schedule appointments with the instructor during the week through the Unit Assistant in 136 Ag Hall or by calling (405) 744-5395.

Class Meetings

Section 358 – Mondays (lecture) & Wednesdays (discussion), 11:30 – 12:20 p.m.

Purpose of the Course

The goals of this course are to enhance student self-awareness, to increase student understanding of career development theories and applications, and to expand student knowledge about career opportunities related to agriculture and the natural resources.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ◆ Explain the basic assumptions of career theories, including personality theory, Holland's person-environment theory, Super's life span-life space theory, and Krumboltz's theory of planned happenstance
- ◆ Define the characteristics of their personality types and identify careers of interest to personality types similar to themselves
- ◆ Define characteristics of their primary, secondary and tertiary Holland codes and identify careers of interest to individuals with similar Holland codes
- ◆ Define different stages and roles fulfilled within their lives, synthesize and explain the potential issues of impact each role may have on their career decisions
- ◆ Analyze and explain the impact chance occurrences have had on their academic and career paths to date

- ◆ Utilize a variety of sources to comprehensively research potential employers and careers
- ◆ Conduct an informational interview
- ◆ Describe the necessary qualifications, job responsibilities, and work environment of at least 10 career areas related to agriculture and natural resources
- ◆ Develop an academic and co-curricular experience plan for their undergraduate education that supports their career interests and goals.

For Whom the Course is Intended

This course is intended for students enrolled in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) who are uncertain of their career direction and are interested in exploring career options in agriculture and natural resources. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Assignments

*Written papers should be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins.

Theory Reflection Papers (4) – Each student should write a 1½ - 2 page reflection paper about the career development theory of their choice and how the student believes the theory is applicable to their stage of career development, their experiences and career directions.

Career Panel Reflection Papers (3) – Each student should select three panel discussions from class and write a 1½ - 2 page reflection paper describing how and why the career area does or does not appeal to the student.

Career Fair Reflection* – Each student will be required to attend one of the fall career fairs. Students should write a 2 page reflection paper following their participation in the activity, assessing what they learned about career opportunities from the experience.

Job Shadowing Questions & Reflection – Each student should select a professional in a career of interest to him/her and set –up a job shadowing experience (minimum ½-day). Prior to completing the job shadowing experience, students should submit a list of questions (minimum 10) they expect to ask during their shadowing experience. Upon completion of the experience, students should write a 2 – 3 page reflection of the experience explaining what they learned about the job activities, qualifications and work environment.

Employer Profile* – Based upon students' individual career goals, each student should select one employer of interest and develop a profile of that organization using the provided outline. Profiles should include information such as organizational mission, goals, competitors, locations, types of positions, etc.

Register with CASNR Career Services & OSU Career Services – Each student should set up a Career Tracker account with CASNR Career Services and a “7 of 10” account with OSU Career Services by the deadline specified in the course schedule.

Job Announcements – Each week students should find a full-time job or internship announcement related to agriculture or natural resources to share with the class.

Undergraduate Plan of Action (Final)– Using the provided worksheet, students should complete a plan of action that outlines their general career goals with academic and co-curricular steps they plan to take toward achieving those career goals during their undergraduate education.

Grading

The grading scale for this course is the traditional grading scale:

A=180 – 200 points	D=120 – 139
B=160 – 179	F=<120
C=140 – 159	

Point values for each assignment are as follows:

Career Theory Reflection Paper	35 points
Career Panel Reflection Papers (4)	35 points
Register with CASNR Career Services & OSU Career Services	10 points
Career Fair Reflection	15 points
Job Shadowing Questions & Reflection	25 points
Employer Profile	25 points
Job Announcements	30 points
Undergraduate Plan of Action (Final)	25 points
<i>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS</i>	<i>200 points</i>

Late Assignments

Assignments turned in within 48 hours of the due day late will automatically be reduced by ten percentage points (one letter grade) in score. Assignments will not be accepted for grading past 48 hours after the class period in which they were due.

Attendance

Attendance at each class meeting is considered a professional obligation. If for some reason a student cannot attend a class meeting, the student is expected to notify the instructor (either in person, via e-mail, or by phone message) prior to class. Failure to follow this procedure and/or excessive absences may result in lowering of the student’s final letter grade by ten percentage points.

Special Accommodations for Students

If any student enrolled in this course believes that he/she has a disability and needs special accommodations of any nature, the instructor will work with that student and the Office of Student Disability Services, 315 Student Union, to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure a fair opportunity to perform in this class. Please advise the instructor of any such circumstances immediately after the first scheduled class period.

Academic Misconduct

Students enrolled in this course will be treated as responsible and honorable. However, if any act of academic dishonesty is suspected and confirmed, disciplinary action will be taken. These disciplinary actions may range up to assigning a semester grade of "F" for this course. All cases of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with Oklahoma State University policies and regulations.

Dates to Remember

Monday, Aug. 29	Last Day to Add (nonrestrictive)
Monday, Aug. 29	Last Day to Drop (no fee & no grade)
Friday, Sept. 2	Last Day to Add (restrictive)
Friday, Sept. 2	Last Day to Withdraw (50% refund & noted on transcript)
Friday, Nov. 11	Last Day to Drop with Grade of "W"

Tentative Course Schedule

Week of...	
August 22	Lecture Topic: Overview of Course and Career Orientation Discussion: Navigating Career Tracker & "7 of 10" Assignment(s) Due: ♦ Register with CASNR Career Services & OSU Career Services
August 29	Lecture Topic: Your Personality & Your Career Discussion: Do What You Are Assessment
September 5	Lecture Topic: You and the Work Environment – What Fits? Discussion: DISCOVER
September 12	Lecture Topic: A Lifetime Perspective of Career Planning Discussion: NO DISCUSSION – ATTEND CAREER FAIR
September 19	Lecture Topic: The Role of Chance in Your Career Planning Discussion: Game of Life Assignment(s) Due: ♦ Career Fair Reflection
September 26	Lecture Topic: Researching Careers and Employers Discussion: Job Shadowing Day Assignment(s) Due: ♦ Theory Reflection ♦ Job Shadowing Questions
October 3	Lecture Topic: Agricultural Sales Employer Panel Discussion: NO DISCUSSION Assignment(s) Due: ♦ Employer Profile
October 10	Lecture Topic: Agricultural Finance and Accounting Employer Panel Discussion: NO DISCUSSION Assignment(s) Due: ♦ Job Shadowing Reflection
October 17	Lecture Topic: Raw Production Management Employer Panel Discussion: NO DISCUSSION
October 24	Lecture Topic: Value-Added Production Management Employer Panel Discussion: NO DISCUSSION
October 31	Lecture Topic: Education and Communications Employer Panel Discussion: NO DISCUSSION
November 7	Lecture Topic: Agricultural Service Employer Panel Discussion: NO DISCUSSION
November 14	Lecture Topic: Technical Employer Panel Discussion: Employer Panel
November 21	Lecture Topic: Natural Resources Management Employer Panel Discussion: NO DISCUSSION

- November 28** **Lecture Topic:** Graduate/Professional Student Panel
Discussion: Course Evaluations
Assignment(s) Due: ♦ Career Panel Reflection Papers
- December 5** **Lecture Topic:** Developing an Education and Experience Plan
Discussion: Course Review
- December 12** **Assignment(s) Due:** ♦ Undergraduate Plan of Action due at Final Exam
(Monday, Dec. 12th at 10:00 a.m.)