Course Syllabus
Principles of Effective Technology Use in Agricultural Science
AGSC 2302

INSTRUCTOR:
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Office hours: Varies from day-to-day due to teaching schedule. Please make an appointment to ensure that I’m in my office. However, when my door is open, you are welcome to walk-in!

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will examine the processes by which professional agriculturalists and communicators influence the introduction, adoption and diffusion of agricultural technology.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Through in-class exercises, assignments, projects, and examinations students are expected to demonstrate the following:
1. Critically examine the adoption-diffusion model. Included are issues such as social class differentials in the dissemination of ideas and technology, non-adoption as a form of behavior, social (group) and economic constraints on adoption behavior, and the consequences of adoption at both the individual and societal levels.
2. Examine the innovation development process including the benefits and consequences of change linked to innovations.
3. Discuss the dissemination of new ideas and technology within various social units.
4. Discuss the applications of the adoption-diffusion model from the perspective of the change agent.
5. Examine the role of mass media in the transfer of technology.

METHODS FOR ASSESSING THE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Exams, Innovator/Change Agent Presentations, Debate/Abstract, Attendance.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exams
Two exams will be administered throughout the semester. Exams will cover material presented before each examination period and will not be comprehensive.

Innovator/Change Agent Presentation
You will interview and report on a change agent or innovator in agriculture. You will be required to provide information about the agent or innovator such as background, examples of innovations the person developed or help diffuse, and a critique of the person’s diffusion strategies. A “profile story” will be submitted to a blog and a short (less than 10 minutes) in-class presentation will be required.

Debates/Abstracts
Students will be divided into teams for the purpose of debating issues related to adoption of agricultural technology. Teams will be required to research their assigned “stance” on the topic and submit an abstract of references. In addition, teams will need to organize a strategy and present information supporting their stance in a debate format.

Attendance/Participation
Participation is a critical component of any course. Attendance is more of an expectation than an assignment, however, points will be deducted based on unexcused absences during normal meeting times. Excused absences must be confirmed by the instructor before the meeting time.

Course Policies: Late assignments will not be accepted, and students turning in late assignments will receive a grade of “0” for that assignment. In case of excused absence, students will be required to show documentation for the absence for late assignments to be accepted.
**Class Attendance:** Attendance is not an option, it is an expectation! Much of the course material will be absorbed through discussions, small group participation and in-class activities. Students may have up to 3 absences, excused or otherwise, without penalty. No questions will be asked, and no excuses need to be provided. Although missed assignments will still be considered on time with the proper documentation. Students missing more than 3 classes will be required to take the comprehensive final. If you do not miss more than 3 classes and are happy with your grade you do not have to partake in the final exam.

**Course Grades:** Grading Scale

- **A** = 90-100%
- **B** = 80-89%
- **C** = 70-79%
- **D** = 60-69%
- **F** = Below 60%

Assignments
- Exams = 300 points
- Innovator Presentation = 100 points
- Debates/Abstracts = 100 points
- Quizzes = 10 points
- Attendance = 100 Points

Students grade will be calculated by total number of points earned, divided by the total number of points possible and a letter grade will be assigned.

**Academic Integrity:** Angelo State University "expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom." Academic integrity means the student does his or her own academic work, unless the instructor explicitly permits collaboration. Academic work that was developed through collaboration or academic references must clearly indicate the location and author of the original source, and students may not fabricate or represent academic work involving data collection and analysis as original work if obtained from a secondary source. "The university may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to," the information listed below.

1. Plagiarism
2. Cheating
3. Fabrication
4. Misrepresentation
5. Conspiracy
6. Misuse of both Technology and Library Materials

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Contact: The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at Student.Life@angelo.edu to begin the process.