Syllabus for SPIN 289

BASIC INFORMATION

COLLEGE: Dordt College

NAME OF COURSE: SPIN 289 Agriculture in the Developing World

SEMESTER, YEAR: Fall, 2014

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION: SPIN classroom, Nehemiah Center, Managua, Nicaragua

INSTRUCTORS: Mark VanderWees, Marg Hoogland

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT: Marg Hoogland mjhoogland@gmail.com cellular Movistar 8863 5780

OVERVIEW OF COURSE:

Dordt College values that its students have exposure from a developing world vantage. This course investigates how food is produced, who benefits and at what cost from a Nicaraguan perspective. Central to the course is that students become aware of the impact of three major export commodities on the land, economy and society in Nicaragua and the impact of foreign agricultural policies on developing countries. Also addressed will be issues of climate change, land ownership, and foreign and national trade policies and their impact on the land, economy, and society.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Each learner who participates in this program
- will be have a greater awareness of the expanse of God’s kingdom
- will have greater empathy of those who have less resources
- will realize the impact of US foreign agriculture policies and practices on other countries
- will identify with the farmer in Nicaragua
- will be advocates for the marginalized in all countries
- will support agencies that work with those people living on the outside of society

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: lecture
Dialog learning
Field trips
Discussions

MATERIALS

PRIMARY BOOKS/READINGS:

Ellen F. Davis (2009). Reading the Bible Through Agrarian Eyes from Scripture, Culture and Agriculture (pp. 21-41). New York: Cambridge University Press,
**Absences:** Attendance is expected. Inform the instructor in advance if you are sick or have another valid reason to be absent.

**Participation:** Active, enthusiastic, and thoughtful participation is appreciated and expected.

**Academic Dishonesty:** In accordance with Dordt policy, academic dishonesty of any kind will result in an F (no credit) on that assignment.

**Assignments:** Written reflection papers must be typed, 1.5 spaced, 11 point, proofread for both grammatical and spelling errors, and submitted on the due date. These will be graded on student participation and evidence of critical thinking.

**Late Work:** Grades for late papers will be reduced 10 percentage points for the first day and 5 percentage points for each additional day.