

Academic Offerings

This section contains descriptions of programs, majors, minors, areas of concentration, fields of specialization, and courses. Semesters following course titles indicate when each course is normally offered. On rare occasions, a course may not be available when indicated because of low enrollment or unexpected staffing changes.

Courses listed as Fall Even and Spring Odd are scheduled to be offered during the 2004-05 academic year. i.e., Fall 2004-05 is Fall Even, Spring 2004-05 is Spring Odd.

Agriculture

The objectives of the course requirements in agriculture, and the other majors as well, are to enable students to develop a basic understanding of the discipline, to learn skills that will equip them to serve in God's kingdom in this area, and to prepare them for future learning experiences.

General Major–

Core (common to all four emphases): Agriculture 101, 105, 111, 290, 361, 370, 380, 381.

Students must select one of the following emphases:

General: Core; Chemistry 101 and 122 or 103 and 104; Agriculture 201, 221, 232; six credits from Agriculture 233, 234, 235, 238, 291, 331, 332, 334, 336, Biology 213 or 214, 302; six credits from Agriculture 251, 255, 311, 313, 314, 315, 350, Biology 115, 217, 319. Agriculture 321 and 371 are also recommended.

Agri-business: Core; Chemistry 101; Agriculture 312, 321; one course from Agriculture 201, 232, 233, 234, 235, 238, 251, 255; Business Administration 201, 202, 205, 206; Economics 202, 203; business administration or economics elective. Agriculture 371 is also recommended.

Animal Science: Core; Chemistry 101 or 103, 104 or 122; Biology 122, 213 or 214, 302; Agriculture 221, 232, 234, 291; one course from Agriculture 233, 235, 238; two courses from Agriculture 331, 332, 334, 336. Agriculture 321 and 371 are also recommended.

Missions: Core; Chemistry 101 or 103; Agriculture 221; Nine credits from: Agriculture 201, 232, 233, 234, 235, 238, 251, 255, 311, 350, BY 291 Sustainable Tropical Agriculture (Gordon College); Theology 203, 301, 302; one course from Theology 307 or 311; One course from Theology 211-214 or Theology 215-219; Gen 235.

Plant Science: Core; Chemistry 101 or 103, 104 or 122; Biology 115, 213 or 214, 319; Agriculture 201, 221, 311; one course from Agriculture 251, 255; three credits from Agriculture 313, 314, 315; one course from 341-350. Agriculture 321 and 371 are also recommended.

Summer Program The agriculture department offers summer courses, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors that may be applied to the emphases listed above. Courses offered will be selected from among Special Topics, Advanced Agriculture Operations, Directed Study, and Individual Studies. Contact the departmental chairperson for more information.

Associate of Arts Degree Options

Area of Concentration (Associate of Arts in Agriculture) See the “Academic Program” section for the general requirements for all A.A. programs.

Agriculture 101, 105, 111, 221, 290; one course from Agriculture 201, 232; three elective credits of agriculture; Communication 110; Chemistry 101. Prescribed general education requirements include English 101, History 100, Philosophy 201, Theology 101; mathematics requirement may be met by an ACT score of 70 or higher or Mathematics 106 or 107.

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- 101 Introduction to Animal Science (4)** Spring
Management, physiology, breeding, feeding and marketing of cattle, swine, sheep, poultry, and other animals. Three lectures and one three-hour laboratory period per week.
- 105 Orientation and Agricultural Safety (1.5)**..... Fall, Spring
Classroom discussion and practical experience are used to familiarize students with the ASC and greenhouse and to develop understanding and competency in the areas of current agricultural production practices and safety procedures. Students will be certified in CPR and will complete first aid training. The course meets for six weeks. Two lectures, a three-hour laboratory, and three hours of scheduled activity at the ASC per week.
- 106 Agricultural Operation and Experience (1.5)**..... Fall, Spring
A continuation of Agriculture 105 designed to give students the opportunity to develop additional skills and proficiencies in agricultural operations. Prior permission from the instructor(s) is required for enrollment. Class size is limited by activities available at the ASC and in the greenhouse. Prerequisite: Agriculture 105.
- 111 Introduction to Plant Science (4)** Fall
This course deals with the production, management, and utilization of the major groups of economically important plants—grains, forage crops, fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, fibers, and stimulants. The effects of soil, climate, and plant pests are considered in relation to the management of various cropping situations. Three lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week.
- 201 Nature and Properties of Soils (3)** Spring
A comprehensive introduction to the field of soil science with emphasis on scientific principles and their application in solutions to practical soil management problems. Two lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 111; Chemistry 101.
- 221 Introduction to Farm Management and Accounting (3)** Spring
The study of decision making in the operation of an agricultural business using financial information and other criteria. Topics include current agricultural policy, goal setting, planning, organization of the farm business, systems management, record keeping, budgeting, balance sheets, income statements, cash flow statements, investment analysis, tax planning, and risk analysis. Two lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week. Prerequisite: Economics 200 or 202.

- 232 Feeds and Feeding (3)**.....Fall
The evaluation, composition, and values of feedstuffs as they relate to animal nutrient requirements will be considered. The basics of ration formulation and feeding management will be covered for the major livestock species. Two lectures and one two-hour laboratory per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 101; Chemistry 101.
- 233 Principles of Dairy Science (3)**..... Spring
Dairy reproduction, physiology, lactation, breeding, nutrition, and genetics will be discussed with an emphasis on scientific principles and their application to dairy science. Two lectures and one three-hour laboratory period per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 105, 232; Chemistry 101.
- 234 Principles of Animal Health (3)** Spring
Animal care and facility sanitation will be discussed, focusing on care, disease prevention, disease detection, animal treatment, pharmacology, and health programs. Three lectures per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 101, 232; Chemistry 101. Recommended: Biology 302.
- 235 Principles of Swine Science (3)**.....Fall Even
A study of swine care and management, physiology, diseases, equipment, reproduction, and nutrition.

Two lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 101, 105; Chemistry 101. Recommended: Agriculture 232.
- 238 Beef and Sheep Science (3)**.....Fall Odd
A study of beef and sheep management, production, physiology, nutrition, reproduction, diseases, equipment, facilities, and care. Two lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 101, 105; Chemistry 101. Recommended: Agriculture 232.
- 251 Horticultural Plants (3)** Spring
The study of greenhouse, vegetable, and ornamental plants. The aesthetics, culture, physiology, and propagation of horticultural plants will be examined. Two lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week. Prerequisite: Agriculture 111 or Biology 115.
- 255 Forage Crop Management (3)**.....Fall Even
The production and management of crops for livestock feed are considered and the establishment, growth, harvesting, preservation, and quality of these crops are examined. Primary emphasis is given to the value of major temperate region grasses and legumes as livestock feed, and the energy, protein, and other nutritional components they supply. The identification of common and alternative forage species is an important component of the course. Two lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 101, 111.
- 281- Service-Learning (1-3)**.....Fall, Spring, Summer
283 See “Individual Studies” section of “Academic Offerings.”
- 290 Perspectives on Agricultural Economics, History, and Policy (3)**.....Fall Even, Spring
The historical changes in food production, management, and processing systems are examined, and the impacts of past philosophies, religions, and worldviews on contemporary agricultural systems are discussed. Domestic and international agricultural policy is also studied. Several views on these topics are examined, and a Reformed perspective is developed. Two lectures and a one-hour small group discussion period per week. Prerequisites: Sophomore status; Philosophy 201. Economics 200 or 202 or Political Studies 201 is recommended.

- 291 Anatomy and Physiology of Animals (4)**.....Fall
The structures and functions of the major body systems will be studied as they work together in the life processes of an animal. The nervous, skeletal, muscle, circulatory, endocrine, digestive, and reproductive systems will be examined. Three lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 101 or Biology 122; Chemistry 104
- 311 Soil Fertility (3)**..... Spring Even
An integrated discussion of soil-crop yields relationships with emphasis on the soil as a source of mineral nutrients for crops and the role of fertilizers and manure in crop production. Three lectures per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 111, 201; Chemistry 101, 122.
- 312 Marketing of Agricultural Products (3)**.....Fall
An analysis of agricultural marketing systems, factors determining agricultural prices, and farmer marketing management. Topics include setting marketing goals, government price institutions, contract and futures markets, and marketing under risk and uncertainty. Three lectures per week. Prerequisite: Agriculture 221.
- 313 Weed Science (2)**.....Spring Odd
A survey of weed species, weed biology and ecology, and the methods by which weed populations can be managed. Weed identification and methods of managing weed populations will be emphasized. Two lectures per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 111 or Biology 115; Chemistry 101, 122.
- 314 Plant Pathology (2)**..... Spring Even
An introduction to the principles of plant pathology. Attention will be given to the identification, physiology, ecology, life cycles, and appropriate control methods of major plant diseases. Nematodes, bacteria, fungi, viruses, and abiotic factors causing plant disease will be considered. Two lectures per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 111 or Biology 115; Chemistry 101, 122.
- 315 Entomology and Pest Management (3)**..... Fall Odd
An introduction to entomology and insect-pest management including insect biology, taxonomy, ecology, life cycles, and integrated pest management. Three lectures per week. Prerequisites: junior standing, Agriculture 111 or Biology 115; Chemistry 101, 122.
- 321 Advanced Farm Management (3)**.....Fall
Christian concepts of stewardship and justice in agriculture, advanced planting techniques, investment analysis, agricultural finance, decision-making under risk and uncertainty, intergenerational transfer of the family business, governmental regulation and promotion of agriculture. Three lectures per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 221 or Business Administration 100, 201 and 205; Economics 200 or 202.
- 331 Reproductive Physiology (1.5)**..... Spring Even
A study of the principles of reproductive physiology and lactation focusing on the major classes of livestock. Students will use these principles to develop an understanding of reproductive management techniques and will examine the ethics of reproductive technologies. Two lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week for seven weeks. Prerequisites: Agriculture 291; Chemistry 101.
- 332 Advanced Animal Nutrition (1.5)**.....Spring Odd
A problem-solving approach will be taken to examine the nutrient requirements of animals in different production systems. The methods that can be used to meet those requirements will be evaluated. Ration formulation will be discussed as it relates to the different digestive systems and production requirements. Two lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week for seven weeks. Prerequisites: Agriculture 232, 291; Chemistry 122.

- 334 Applied Animal Breeding (1.5)** Spring Even
Quantitative genetic principles will be applied to livestock production systems. Improvement programs utilizing selection practices and mating systems will be discussed. Two lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week for seven weeks. Prerequisites: Agriculture 101; Chemistry 101. Recommended: Biology 213.
- 336 Meat Science (1.5)**Spring Odd
The processes of converting muscle tissue into meat and factors affecting meat quality will be studied. The role of the producer, packer, USDA, and consumer in quality and safety issues will be examined. Two lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week for seven weeks. Prerequisites: Agriculture 101; Chemistry 101.
- 341- Special Topics (3)** Occasional
348 Courses vary from year to year and are designed to meet special student interests and utilize staff strengths and talents of experts in the community. Each course covers material not usually treated in regularly scheduled courses.
- 350 Field Crop Production and Management (3)**.....Fall
Grain and forage production in the North Central Region of the US is investigated using lectures, group projects, field trips, and production and research experiences at the ASC. The role of grains in world food production is examined, and students are challenged to find solutions to the problems frequently associated with grain production. Students collect and analyze field crop data and explore sustainable crop production methods and systems. The investigation of new and innovative crop production strategies is an important component of the course. Two lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week. Prerequisites: Agriculture 105, 111, 221; one course from Agriculture 201, 251, 255, 311, 313, or 315.
- 352 Advanced Agricultural Operations (2)**.....Summer
Field trips, ASC involvement and responsibility, and class discussions are utilized to enhance student operational, decision-making, and management skills in plant and/or livestock production enterprises. One lecture/discussion period and eight hours of ASC contribution per week, plus one overnight and two day-long field trips. Prerequisites: Agriculture 101, 105, 111, 290.
- 353 Advanced Agricultural Operations (2)**.....Summer
A continuation of Agriculture 352.
- 361 Senior Seminar (3)** Spring
An integration of departmental courses, research, and analysis of current topics with emphasis on Christian perspective for persons involved in agriculture. Issues will include government policies, world hunger, the family farm, meat production, and others. Three lectures per week. Prerequisite: senior standing in the agriculture department.
- 370 Agroecology (4)**Fall
This course is an introduction to the principles of agricultural ecology, with an emphasis on the role of Christians as caretakers of creation. The characteristics of agroecosystems and natural ecosystems are compared. Topics include world food production, the development of agroecosystems, the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycling, aquatic systems, diversity, and succession. The interaction of agroecosystems with surrounding ecosystems is studied, and the utilization of ecological principles in agroecosystem design and management are examined. Three lectures and one three-hour laboratory per week. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing, Agriculture 111 and 101 or Biology 115 and 122; Chemistry 101.

371 Practicum (3) Fall, Spring
Students are given the opportunity to apply the principles of agriculture and business in an off-campus assignment. Ten hours per week at an off-campus site. Prerequisite: senior standing in the agriculture department.

380 Directed Study - Class Component (1.5)Fall
Students, in groups of two or three, design a study of particular interest to them with the guidance of a faculty member in the agriculture department. The course involves identifying a relevant problem or question, reviewing background information, preparing a study proposal, and obtaining the agriculture department’s approval of the proposal. Class meets one period per week (Tuesday or Thursday). Prerequisites: junior or senior standing and completion of Agriculture 101, 105, 111; and Agriculture 290 or 370.

381 Directed Study - Project Component (2.5).....Fall, Spring, Summer
A continuation of Agriculture 380. Students, working in groups of two or three, will collect and analyze data, evaluate the findings from a Christian perspective, and present their results in written and oral form.

Research will typically be conducted during the spring or summer semester with a presentation the following fall (for seniors taking the course the presentation will be at the end of spring semester). Prerequisite: Agriculture 380.

391- Individual Studies (1-3)Fall, Spring, Summer
393 See “Individual Studies” section of “Academic Offerings.”