



Ag Education: How Does Your Garden Grow, and More Syllabus

EDUO 9530 1 Semester Credit/Unit

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Course Syllabus

Description:

In many areas of the country, the agriculture industry provides many jobs as well as food for the local population. Students at any grade level can be introduced to agriculture and its importance in your area. This independent study class will introduce teachers to several agricultural resources that can be utilized in the classroom in an effort to educate their students about where their food comes from, how it is produced and processed, and the benefits of eating fresh fruits and vegetables.

Course Objectives:

1. Teachers will have tools and knowledge about how agriculture education and planting gardens can support learning in any classroom.
2. Teachers will be introduced to many online resources that offer agriculture lessons and information about healthy eating habits for any grade level.

Teachers will create awareness in the classroom about the significance the agricultural industry in your area.

Class Requirements:

1. Participants in this class will be required to research, plan and teach one or more Ag lessons and/or gardening projects for their grade level. Time researching online or other sources for agriculture lessons should be logged and submitted as well as the names of the websites that were searched and found to be of use for this class. Lesson plans should be submitted for this agriculture unit and/or gardening project, along with photos and descriptions of work done, and the evaluations of each unit/lesson.

Planning and taking a fieldtrip to a farm, etc. can also be described in the coursework, as well as any guest speakers who are invited to share their knowledge of agriculture.

Written Response Rubric:

Exemplary: Met and Exceeds Expectations A+ to A-	Acceptable: Meets Expectations B+ to B-	Unacceptable: Needs Improvement, Must be resubmitted.
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated.	Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment.	Few relevant ideas connected to the assignment, some ideas unclear.
Very well organized	Is generally well organized	Shows little organization
Reflective piece covers numerous facts and specific details of the learning experience.	Some facts and specific details of the learning experience are included.	Few or no facts or specific details of the learning experience are included.
Free of spelling or grammatical errors.	Writing contains a few spelling or grammatical errors.	Numerous spelling or grammatical errors. Writing difficult to read.

Instructions for coursework submission:

Written Assignments

Your coursework should be created in a document that can be emailed directly to the instructor. Coursework should be typed, double-spaced with size 12 font. Reflection write-ups should be one or more pages in length and address every question in the coursework. Pictures and documents may be scanned and posted along with your Word or PDF file of written assignments. Label everything carefully with the assignment number and make sure that your name and email address are easy to locate.

IMPORTANT - Camera images can be very large files. Save the images in lower definition resolution in order to keep document file sizes down for emailing. For assistance email jherz@dominicancaonline.com

EMAIL your completed documents to the instructor's email listed on the syllabus you are working from.

A Sample of Online Resources for teaching agriculture and healthy eating in the Classroom

1. **Agriculture in the Classroom** (California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom)

- <http://learnaboutag.org/>

The website states: “Our mission is to increase awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students. Our vision is an appreciation of agriculture by all.”

Teachers can request free materials, purchase lesson plans, and find recommended resources about agriculture. For example, Ag lessons, related websites, related literature and a Matrix of Standards for each grade level come with Lesson Plans for grades 2-6.

2. **Farm to School Resources:** from the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition service.

3. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/farm-school-resources#Education> Scroll down this link to find School Gardens and Education/Curriculum Integration resources and much more.

4. **Farms Leadership Program: The Edible Schoolyard Project.**

This project was founded by Alice Waters, the owner of Chez Panisse Restaurant in Berkeley, CA, who has been instrumental in programs that involve students in all aspects of growing, cooking, and sharing food at the table.

<https://edibleschoolyard.org/program/farms-leadership-program> Under **Resources**, lessons are posted for all grade levels.

Also, the Edible Schoolyard Project sponsors the **FARMS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**, which takes high school students to farms, ranches, agricultural businesses, and processing facilities to learn about sustainable agriculture, and more.

<https://edibleschoolyard.org/node/2390> - a California program; check for something similar in your state.

5. **Gardening with kids: The Growing Classroom** Leaders in Plant-Based Education. This site, provided by the National Gardening Association has products for sale that support the Association’s grant programs as well as a Teacher Resources tab where lessons and activities can be accessed.

- www.gardeningwithkids.org

6. **County Master Gardeners (available in many counties and states)**

Master Gardeners are available to consult with your school garden team on how to start and sustain a school garden. This link will take you to a site where the contact information is available, along with many other topics, and resources.

- <https://articles.extension.org/pages/9925/state-and-provincial-master-gardener-programs:-extension-and-affiliated-program-listings>

6. Farm Bureau Federation

Each year, in some areas, the Foundation sponsors two **Ag in the Classroom** Summer Programs, that are open to K-12 educators . Teachers will have field trips and presentations, and will be given resources and lesson plans for incorporating agriculture into their classrooms.

- <https://www.fb.org/?action=statefbshttp://www.fb.org/index.php?action=statefbs>

A bee resource is the National Honey Board, website: www.honey.com

7. Agrium-Growing the Next Generation.

This website has interactive activities, game, videos, a Teacher’s Guide and more.

- www.growingthenextgeneration.com

8. Sustainable Agriculture Resources and Programs for K-1 Youth

This guide to agriculture-oriented educational opportunities for students features more than 50 programs and curricula nationwide.

This site includes direct links, program contact information, and ideasfor integrating lessons into school programs.

- https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKEwiH666RsZ3eAhXjHzQIHT4UCwAQFjAAegQIABAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sare.org%2Fcontent%2Fdownload%2F50159%2F661951%2FYouth-Resources-May_2013.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0rh4Ulzezkgkm2geMONhrS

9. Agriculture-Kids social studies videos, games and lessons that make learning fun and easy, has some great resources.

- www.neok12.com/Agriculture.htm

10. Conduct a web search to locate additional local resources.