

11:607:484 *Practical Leadership Applications in Agriculture*  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Spring 2017

**Instructor:** Karen A. Plumley, Ph.D., Director of Research, Alliance for Low-Input Sustainable Turf  
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**Prerequisites:** At least one animal science course, plant science course or general biology OR Permission from Instructor. Open to sophomores and above.

**Course Description:** This course provides students with relevant knowledge and skills related to agricultural work environment. Classroom instruction coupled with an "intensive field experience" in The Netherlands provides international perspective while preparing students to be productive contributors in the workplace. Students apply and integrate classroom-taught theories, principles and skills to authentic situations encountered beyond the classroom. Establishing contacts and developing rapport with agricultural leaders further enhances student growth, development and opportunities.

**Learning Goals** - As a result of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate appropriate professional workplace behaviors and skills
- Identify agriculture industry issues, challenges and solutions
- Establish a network of agriculture industry contacts
- Assess and evaluate professional development opportunities in agriculture

**Student assignments include:**

1. Participation in Class Discussions and On-Line Threaded Discussions
2. Individual Research: Relevant NJ Agriculture Issue – Paper
3. Attend professional agriculture meeting (NJFB, SADC, NJNLA, etc.) - Paper
4. Elevator Speech - Presentation
5. Group Research: Relevant Issues for site visit-Presentation
6. Leadership during travel seminar: onsite assignments in Germany

**Grading:**

| <b>Assignment</b>                   | <b>Point Value</b> | <b>Total Points</b> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Class Participation (2)             | 25                 | 50                  |
| Threaded Discussions (7 total)      | 35                 | 245                 |
| Introduction TD                     | 5                  | 5                   |
| Ag Issue -Justification             | 25                 | 25                  |
| Ag Issue-Paper                      | 100                | 100                 |
| Meeting -Justification              | 25                 | 25                  |
| Meeting -Paper                      | 100                | 100                 |
| Group Presentation-Group Grade      | 100                | 100                 |
| Group Presentation-Individual Grade | 50                 | 50                  |
| Elevator Speech                     | 50                 | 50                  |
| Germany: Onsite Assignments         | 250                | 250                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        |                    | <b>1000</b>         |

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**TRAVEL WEEK: May 15-22**

There will be a number of graded assignments while we are in Germany where students will apply what they have learned during the semester.

Speaker Introductions/Thank you's: students will prepare and deliver the introduction of each speaker on the program and appropriately thank the speaker at the conclusion of their presentation.

Meeting Manager: The overall purpose of the Meeting Manager is to keep the class informed & on schedule. Each student will take on the role of meeting manager while in Germany.

Facilitator: Working in groups, the students will facilitate a rich dialogue/ discussion among the group to address the following:

1. Based on the topics, guest speakers, activities, and/or site visits:
  - What are the problems and/or issues?
  - What are the assets (potential assets) / resources of the given issue?
2. Given this context:
  - Explore the root causes and contributing factors that relate to the identified problems/issues.
  - Delve into the ideas around solving the problem/issue or moving the agenda forward in a positive way, with specific leadership capabilities/capacities in mind (character, connection, change, commitment, etc.)
3. Given this context:
  - What are the leadership lessons, the "take-away" from our experience?