Western New York Agriculture (AGR190)

Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming counties are located in the heart of New York’s most fertile and abundant agricultural area, and now Genesee Community College is offering a course to help students understand this unique commodity. This course has been developed with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team. These educators are at the forefront of knowledge in regard to what’s currently happening in our area’s agriculture. The Western New York Agriculture course will not just teach critical aspects of today’s farming – instructors will take students directly to the local farms and businesses that depend on agriculture. Students will have the opportunity to observe all levels of employment opportunities and investigate potential agricultural career paths.

If You Eat – this Course Elective is for You!

Western New York Agriculture course introduces students with all kinds of academic and career interests about the incredible variety of agriculture in our area, and it will illustrate the economic impact that farming has on the region and on our overall lives. Many complex challenges are faced by farmers in this day and age and innovative changes are needed to feed the world’s growing population. Students will cover topics such as:

- Agronomy
- Integrated pest management
- AG technology and innovation
- Production systems
- Labor issues
- Bioengineering
- Environmental issues
- Animal Care
- Organic farming
- AG economics

After successful completion of this course, students should be able to identify and discuss integral role of agriculture in Western New York’s employment opportunities and economy. Along with learning the basics of agronomy for wheat, corn, soybeans and hay, students will learn the differences in production systems for each crop. The role of technology in modern farming – including biotechnology and global positioning systems – will also be presented to students enrolled in the course.
Experiential Learning

Excellent field study opportunities are built into the AGR190 curriculum giving students real-life insight and first-hand observations of a wide array of local agricultural sites. When learning about herd care, dairy milking cycles and proper nutrition for cows, students will visit a local dairy farm. They will also be taught about cow comfort, care and well-being along with calf and heifer management, technologies, and AI breeding before heading out to a veal and heifer raising facility. After learning about pest management and pesticide safety, instructors will take their classes to a nearby field that faces pest control issues. Students will also visit farms in Orleans County to learn about fruit production and high density plantings. As the course draws to a close, students will complete a capstone project that draws upon their experiential learning experiences.

Course Schedule

The AGR190 class will be offered this fall on Mondays from 2:00 to 5:00 PM in room C303. For further information on the AGR190 course, go to: http://www.genesee.edu/academics/catalog/AGR/190/201109/

Course Registrations

This course elective is open to all students in all programs making early registration for the limited number of seats strongly advised. No prerequisites are necessary. To register for the class online go to: http://www.genesee.edu/depts/admissions/apply/ For course inquiries contact: Professor Maureen Leupold at MALeupold@genesee.edu or by call 585-343-0055 x6394.

About Genesee Community College

Founded in 1966, Genesee has seven campus locations in Albion, Arcade, Batavia, Dansville, Lima, Medina and Warsaw which serve a 2,500 square-mile region in the Western New York counties of Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, and Wyoming. GCC is recognized for its small class size, personal attention, and cutting-edge technology applied to the teaching and learning experience.

Course Developers

Maureen Leupold, GCC Biology Professor
James Kingston, Specialist for Cornell University Cooperative Extension-NWNY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team
Michael J. Stanyard, PhD. Senior Extension Associate Field Crops and Soils for Cornell University Cooperative Extension- NWNY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team

You may also contact our faculty directly:

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