

Agronomy 210
Career Planning Seminar
Fall 2004

Meeting Time and Place: Tuesdays, 3:10 pm, 2026 Agronomy Hall

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Objectives

The purpose of this course is to help you with career planning and professional development. The course will explore employment areas of interest to professional agronomists, which could serve as potential job opportunities, as sources of information, and for other interactions.

Agronomy Learner Outcomes

Understand the scope of agronomy and its relationships to other disciplines and professions.

Write a concise, grammatically correct report.

Prepare a resume.

Be aware of the global extent of agriculture.

Approach

The course mainly consists of a series of presentations by professionals working in various agronomy-related areas such as farm management, seed production, crop consulting, agricultural chemicals, environmental management, and international agriculture. Representatives from federal and state agencies involving agronomy will also give presentations. Resume preparation, job seeking strategies, and graduate school programs will also be explored.

Visiting speakers will explain what their work is like and what they look for in a potential employee. There will be time for questions at the end of the period. Students can use this opportunity to expand their understanding of professional agronomy and to ask questions that may provide insight into these professions. For those of you considering employment in an area being presented, this is a good chance to ask those questions that you would not ask during an interview. Speakers may provide tips into what employers look for when they are interviewing for a position. Even if you don't end up working in a particular area presented, you will probably come in contact with most of these areas during your professional career. Some areas will be of assistance to you for technical guidance or other information.

Assignments

1. **Resume:** Prepare your resume in a form suitable for submission to employers. See the attached information and the presentation by Mike Gaul for assistance on resume preparation. Feel free to seek help on your resume from others such as the instructors, your adviser, or Mr. Gaul. The instructors will review your resume and may require revisions. **Due date: September 21**
2. **Cover letter:** Write a cover letter to send to a specific company or agency along with your revised resume as a request for a job interview. See attached for more information. **Due date: October 12**
3. **Career report:** Attend Agricultural Career Day on October 26 at the ISU Memorial Union and collect information on careers in which you have an interest. Present this information along with a short (1-2 page) report. See attached for more information. **Due date: November 9**

Grading

Your Agronomy 210 grade will be based on the satisfactory completion of the assignments and your attendance and participation in class. You will be assigned to a small group which will be responsible one class period for **(1) introducing the speaker** (information will be provided by the instructor) and **(2) asking questions** to encourage class discussion. Each member of the group should come to class with one prepared question. This means you may have to “do your homework” on the topic and speaker before class. Class participation will be worth 50 points, or 1/6 of your grade in this course. It is important that you attend each class on time and be courteous to guest speakers. Each unexcused absence will decrease the final grade by 5%. Please contact the instructor *in advance* if you plan to be absent.

Possible points:

Resume – draft	40 points
Resume – final	60 points
Cover letter	75 points
Career file & report	75 points
Class participation	50 points
Total	300 points

Grading scale:

A>=93%, A-=90, B+=86, B=83, B-=80, C+=76, C=73, C-=70, D+=66, D=63, D-=60, F<=59