Course Name: **Sustainability, the Environment and Globalization in Brazil**

Course Number: **AGR 399**

Credit Hours: **2** undergraduate

**Course Objectives**

This course will serve as an exchange program between UniCesumar in Maringá, Brazil and Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo. Students will engage in a cultural and educational exchange program where they will attend classroom sessions, industry visits, and social visits with students from both institutions. At the end of the program students will be able to identify modern farming techniques for the production of soybeans, corn, sugar and grapes. Furthermore, they will be able to compare and contrast the production practices of Missouri and Brazil for these crops. They will be able to identify current trends in turning these commodities into value added products such as ethanol, feed, plastics, etc. Students will be able to identify and discuss soil characteristics common to each area and the unique challenges and opportunities associated with these soils. The students will be able to compare and contrast common farming economic decisions between Missouri and Brazil in terms of marketing commodities and value added products. Finally, the students will be able to comfortably immerse themselves in another culture, be comfortable traveling to another country, and interacting with a variety of people of different cultural backgrounds.

**Program Fee:** **$3,105**

**Program Fee Includes:** Round trip airfare, ground transportation in Brazil, lodging, guides, most meals, program activities, Study Away student fee, basic medical insurance; separated costs not available.

**Program Fee Excludes:** Passport, visa, some meals, incidentals/misc personal expenses, and souvenirs. $408 MSU tuition for 2 hours of undergraduate credit. Both Missouri residents and non-residents pay the Missouri resident per-credit-hour tuition rate, per University policy.

**Online applications are due by February 2, 2015.** A nonrefundable deposit of $465 will be billed to your student account. To apply, please:

- Visit the Study Away website at international.missouristate.edu/studyaway/
- Choose Apply Now
- Search for a Program (under Apply for a Study Away Program)
- Choose Simple Search
- Type Brazil under Program Name
- Choose Sustainability...Developing World
- Choose Apply Now

**Scholarship Eligibility & Financial Aid**

Students may apply for the William H. Darr School of Agriculture Study Away scholarship. Applications are due to the Study Away office by April 10, 2015. Please see the scholarship page on the Study Away website. Additionally, students who receive financial aid may apply aid to this program. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 836-5262 for more information.
Course Outline & Schedule

The area that we will travel to in Brazil is heavily agricultural in nature. Production of commodity products such as soybeans, corn, wheat and sugar are a driving component of the economy. The products are similar to those produced here in Missouri, however, the climate in the area allows for continual planting and harvesting of these crops. Continual production leads to interesting challenges in soil fertility and conservation that dramatically differ from those experienced in Missouri. The ready availability of these products has attracted many global companies including Cocamar, Monsanto, DuPont and others to the area.

This pressure has created a unique challenge for the University in Maringá, to teach not only theory of production, but also practical application of those theories to smallholder farms. Some of these practices are being met with resistance as these farmers want to continue doing business as usual. All of these factors will allow us to examine the dynamics of increased pressure from global demand for commodity crops, the effect this demand has on the local environment (especially soil fertility and conservation, energy consumption, and water quality and conservation), and the effect on local culture and their adaptation of technology.

The program will feature an exchange spanning approximately 20 days. Ten students and two faculty members from UniCesumar will first travel to Springfield, Mo where the students from both programs will engage in cooperative learning activities. These activities will include classroom lectures, discussions, industry visits, and social interactions. Afterwards, the entire group will travel to Maringá to attend lectures and industry visits in Brazil (again with members from both groups participating). This will allow for a more meaningful level of interaction between the groups. This will lead to a better understanding of the two cultures and overall a deeper level of understanding than would occur during a 10 day visit otherwise.

We will spend each morning (approximately four hours) at each university attending lectures by professors. Short day trips to area businesses, agricultural areas, and research facilities will be supplement the lectures in the afternoon. Professor Naama Mendes Jr. at Unicesumar is coordinating lecture and site visits in Brazil while Brad Bodenhaus and Christi Sudbrock will coordinate activities at Missouri State.

Course Credit & Requirements

Students will be graded on a reflection journal kept throughout the process of the trip, including pre- and post-meetings and while in Brazil. The journals will include some previously set discussion questions for them to consider as well as their own feelings and perceptions. They will also be graded on two papers, an individual presentation and a group presentation.

There will be two papers due for this course of approximately 2 pages and 5 pages. The first paper will cover a topic of interest that the student must have independently researched prior to departure. Their findings will be presented to the rest of the group at the last pre-departure meeting. All of the topics will be selected by the student and approved by the instructor to ensure that a variety of relevant topics are covered. The student will be graded based on the quality of the paper, the ability of the information to prepare the rest of the group for a topic they will experience in Brazil, and the presentation given to the class.

The second paper, will be over the same topic, but will be based on their actual experience in Brazil concerning that topic. The student will be graded based on the quality of the paper and the demonstrated level of understanding of the topic.

The students will also be required to keep a journal from the first class meeting to the debriefing. The journal will include self-reflection on personal experiences as well as pre-determined discussion questions. The journal will be graded on the level of thought put into the entries as well as daily logs from the trip and notes from the lectures.

In addition, the group will meet every night of the trip to discuss the day's lectures, site visits and experiences. The students will be graded on their participation in these discussions and their participation in the lectures, site visits and experiences.

The students will also be required to create a group presentation about themselves, Missouri State and Missouri agriculture to present to the visiting students from Brazil. They will be encouraged to incorporate as much Portuguese as possible into this presentation.

Application & Payment Procedures

Missouri State University students and others who are approved by the Program Director may apply.

MSU Students: A non-refundable deposit of $465 must be paid through the Study Away Storefront on or before Feb. 2, 2015. The balance of the program fee ($2,640), MSU course tuition ($408) will be billed to your University account separately and is due according to the university payment plan.

Visiting Students: A non-refundable deposit of $465 must be paid through the Study Away Storefront on or before Feb. 2, 2015. The balance of the program fee ($2,640) must be paid through the Study Away Storefront by April 10, 2015. MSU course tuition ($408) is also due by April 10, 2015 and must be paid at the bursar’s office or on-line through my.missouristate.edu.

In order to ensure participation in this Study Away program, each student must pay the entire program fee by April 27, 2015. Alternatively, a student may show proof of the financial aid that will pay for the fee. If a student does not pay the program fee, or does not show proof of financial aid that is sufficient to cover the fee, the student will be withdrawn from the Study Away program, dropped from the course, and his/her airline reservation will be canceled. Visiting students must also fully pay the tuition amount by April 10, 2015 in order to stay enrolled in the program. Estimated program fees are based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change. Program participants agree to a potential increase of up to 10% if rates increase before or during travel.

Cancellation & Refund Policies

- Students who withdraw prior to April 6, 2015 will receive a refund of fees paid, less the $465 deposit and any non-refundable purchases made on his/her behalf.

- If a student must withdraw after April 6, 2015 for a bona fide medical reason, s/he will receive a refund of fees paid, less the $465 deposit and non-refundable expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is required.

- Students withdrawing voluntarily after April 6, 2015 will receive no refund.

- When the program begins, no refunds will be issued under any circumstances.

- All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Program Director and the Director of Study Away Programs at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403. Non-payment of fees does not guarantee withdrawal.