

INTRODUCTION

-African Americans have made significant contributions to the agricultural industry (Balvanz et al., 2011; Moon, 2007). Many of those contributions have failed to make their way into curriculum resources, and others are largely nonexistent (Hurt, 2019).

-W.E.B. DuBois, a prominent philosopher, stressed the need to educate aspiring teachers about African American culture (King, 2019).

-African American agricultural history should not be taught through a White perspective. Rather, it should be presented in such a way that it highlights the accurate perspective of the minority group being emphasized (Banks 1993; King, 2019).



HOW IT WORKS

-AGED 4990: African American Agriculture was developed to teach students first-hand about the history of agriculture from an African American perspective.

-The purpose of the AGED 4990 course was to examine the African American experience within the conceptual lens of agriculture in the United States from 1619 to the present.

-Students summarized and interpreted the significant economic, political, and cultural forces and leaders that influenced the African American experience in the United States and agricultural industry, writ large.



RESULTS TO DATE

-AGED 4990, a one-credit-hour weekend course, was developed and taught to undergraduate students in the Agricultural Education, Communications, and Leadership Department at Oklahoma State University in Fall 2020

-Day one consisted of lectures, videos, and worksheets related to African American agricultural history.

-Day two consisted of students engaging with African American agriculturists through panel discussions, individual interviews, and guest speaker presentations.

-Numerous students also expressed a new and growing appreciation for this part of history after taking this course.



FUTURE COSTS & NEEDS

-Field trip to the George Washington Carver Memorial site in Diamond, MO to observe exhibits, read artifacts, access lesson plans and ideas, and hear stories told from curators about the life and impact of George Washington Carver on agricultural production and innovation as a scientist, educator, and humanitarian.

-Costs of the course are assumed by students paying tuition for the course. The cost associated with teaching the course is self-sustaining.

STUDENTS SHOULD LEARN ABOUT AFRICAN AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGRICULTURE



"African American Agriculture: The Development of a One-Credit-Hour Weekend Course"

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