
Status Of Cooperative Classes In The U.S.

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Motivation

- Periodic calls for updating of cooperative textbooks
 - Recent retirements of co-op teaching faculty
 - Changes in undergraduate curriculum
 - Needs for co-op education
 - Cobia et al. textbook was never finished
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Objective

- My objective is to provide a 'dashboard' survey of statistics on classes in cooperatives that are taught in the United States

Where was a course on co-ops taught in 2004?

- Alabama A&M University
- Central Missouri State University
- California State University, Fresno
- California State University, Chico
- Ohio State University
- Oklahoma State University
- University of California, Davis
- University of Missouri
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- University of Wisconsin, Platteville
- University of Wisconsin, River Falls

Classes on books but not currently taught in 2004

- Auburn University
- Cornell University
- Fort Valley State University
- Middle Tennessee State University
- North Dakota State University
- Southern University
- University of Kentucky
- University of Hawaii
- University of Maryland – Eastern Shore
- Virginia State University
- Wilmington College

Selected Data

University	Students	Composition	Semester	Frequency	Future	Textbook
Wisconsin	50	Majors / Non-majors	Fall	Annually	Elective	Positive Zeuli and Cropp
Oklahoma State	65	Majors / Non-majors	Spring	Annually	Elective	Positive Cobia +
Davis	100	Majors	Winter	Annually	Elective	Positive Cobia +
Missouri	50	Majors	Spring	Annually	Required	Positive Articles
California State, Chico	35	Majors / Non-majors	Spring	Annually	Elective	Positive Cobia +
Thee Ohio State	30	Majors	Winter	Annually	Elective	Positive Cobia +

Summary

- What are the needs of co-op educators at the undergraduate level?
 - Some use parts of the Cobia et al. textbook
 - Reading lists are used in several courses
 - Collective action
 - Is it advisable to try and finish Cobia et al.?
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Some thoughts

- A process similar to what was used for National Food and Agribusiness Management education Commission could be used.
 - Find funding to put faculty together for a noon to noon retreat in small groups to read and react to book chapters.
 - Need to pay room, meals, and honorarium
 - Need to have concrete deadlines with a finished product
 - Designed for use in teaching which means teaching materials
 - Teaching manual of some sort
 - Think through a teaching outline
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Your Thoughts

- Is this something worthwhile pursuing?
 - Are co-op classes something more than just a 'history' class (i.e., traditional ag policy or international development courses)
- Will it be used?
- Can it be more than just a collection of chapters designed for academics?
- Will people collaborate if the process is organized and funding is secured?