

AGBUS 101 Introduction to Agricultural Economics

Instructor: Dr. Mollie Aschenbrener
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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
*Others as arranged. Call or email to establish.

Schedule: Section One: MWF 11:00 - 11:50 a.m. Holt 352
Section Two: Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:00 - 1:50 p.m. Plumas 205

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to agricultural economics. Basic economic principles will be applied to the agricultural industry.

Course Objectives:

1. Develop and improve critical reading, writing and speaking skills
2. Develop analytical skills for the recognition and separation of facts, fiction and opinion
3. Develop intellectual honesty and willingness to test personal beliefs and values against perceptions of truth and value
4. Come to terms with changing social value and the dichotomy between urban and rural outlooks on life
5. Begin to understand the “soft systems” approach to consensus building and conflict resolution
6. Understand and appreciate the importance of teamwork in development of solutions for major problems confronting agriculture

Course Materials:

The required text book for this class is Agricultural Economics (second edition) by Drummond and Goodwin. Additional readings may be required and will be posted on WebCt. It is your responsibility to complete all reading assignments **prior to lecture**. Failure to read assigned materials may result in loss of attendance points and will be reflected by test performance.

Policies:

1. ADA Policy – If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, please notify the Disability Support Services, 172

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2. Student Services Building, 898-5959 or your course instructor immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.
3. Academic Honesty – Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of any university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the gain is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration, consult the instructor.
4. Attendance and Participation – Regular attendance is expected. If you must miss a class for any reason please contact the instructor by e-mail prior to the absence. You will be responsible for obtaining handouts and/or materials that were distributed during your absence. Missed assignments due to absence from class may only be submitted with approval of the instructor. If approved, missed assignments must be completed within one week of returning to class.
5. Late Assignments – All papers and assignments should be submitted on or before the due date. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**
6. Communication
All communication for this course will be conducted via WebCT Vista. This includes course announcements. It is the student’s responsibility to check WebCT prior to classes for any announcements regarding the course. Email correspondence should be made through the instructors’ email (maschenbrener@csuchico.edu).

Assignments:

1. Exams
Three exams will be given during the course, including two midterms and a cumulative final exam. Midterms may not be re-scheduled or “made-up” unless provided by university protocol. Please see the details provided regarding the dates of exams.
2. Quizzes – The instructor reserves the right to administer pop quizzes. Students must be present on the day assignments are given, and pop quizzes may NOT be made up.
3. Assignments - A variety of writing and critical thinking assignments will be given throughout the semester. These assignments are designed to assess your understanding and application of the material discussed in class. Additional details will be found on WebCT. Properly cite sources!
4. Individual Paper
A research oriented paper will be assigned to apply critical thinking skills to the material presented during the course and assess written communication skills. Addition details will be provided in class and through WebCt. Properly cite sources!

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Evaluations:

| <i>Assignment</i> | <i>Due Date</i> | <i>Points Possible</i> | <i>Points Earned</i> |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Examinations and Quizzes</i> | | | |
| Exam One | 10/7 | 100 | |
| Exam Two | 11/9 | 100 | |
| Final: MWF 11:00 – 11:50 a.m. = Monday, December 14th @10:00–11:50 am MWF 1:00 -1:50 p.m. = Wednesday, December 16th @2:00-3:50 pm – have a great break! | | 200 | |
| Other Quizzes (based on discussion, feedback and participation) | You never know! | 50 | |
| <i>Homework Assignments:</i> | | | |
| 15 homework assignments will be given during the semester. | | 10 | |
| | | 10 | |
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| | | 10 | |
| | | 10 | |
| <i>Individual Project</i> | | | |
| Individual Research Paper | 12/9 | 50 | |
| TOTAL | | 650* | |

* Note: Points may vary depending upon additional quizzes and assignments given.

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Grading Scale:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A+ = 98% & above | B = 83% - 87.99% | C- = 70% - 72.99% |
| A = 93% - 97.99% | B- = 80% - 82.99% | D+ = 68% - 69.99% |
| A- = 90% - 92.99% | C+ = 78% - 79.99% | D = 60% - 67.99% |
| B+ = 88% - 89.99% | C = 73% - 79.99% | F = less than 60% |

Tentative Schedule:

| Topic |
|--|
| Introduction |
| The Food Industry- Chapter one |
| The Food Industry- Chapter one |
| Introduction to Agricultural Economics |
| Graphs and slope of a line and slope of a curve |
| Demand- Chapter 3 |
| Supply |
| Interaction between Demand and Supply |
| Shifts in Supply and Demand |
| Theory of Consumer Behavior – Chapter 15 |
| Law of Diminishing marginal utility |
| Elasticity – Chapter 16 |
| Cobweb theorems |
| Financial Markets – Chapter 4 |
| Money and Monetary Policy – Chapters 5 and 6 |
| Circular Flow of Money and Income – Chapter 7 |
| Fiscal Policy – Chapter 8 |
| Agricultural Policy – Chapter 10 |
| Costs and Optimal Output levels – Chapter 12 |
| International Trade – Chapter 9 |
| Imperfect Competition and Government Regulation – Chapter 14 |

Tentative Schedule:

| Week: | Date: | Topic |
|-------|-------|--|
| 1. | 8/24 | Introduction The Food Industry- Chapter one |
| | 8/26 | |
| | 8/28 | |
| 2. | 8/31 | |
| | 9/2 | |
| | 9/4 | |
| 3. | 9/7 | <i>No School –Labor Day</i> |
| | 9/9 | |
| | 9/11 | |
| 4. | 9/14 | |

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|--------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | 9/16 | |
| | 9/18 | |
| 5. | 9/21 | |
| | 9/23 | |
| | 9/25 | <i>No Class- Furlough Day</i> |
| 6. | 9/28 | |
| | 9/30 | |
| | 10/2 | |
| 7. | 10/5 | |
| | 10/7 | Midterm One |
| | 10/9 | |
| 8. | 10/12 | |
| | 10/14 | |
| | 10/16 | |
| 9. | 10/19 | <i>No Class- Furlough Day</i> |
| | 10/21 | |
| | 10/23 | |
| 10. | 10/26 | |
| | 10/28 | |
| | 10/30 | |
| 11. | 11/2 | <i>No Class – furlough day</i> |
| | 11/4 | |
| | 11/6 | |
| 12. | 11/9 | Midterm Two |
| | 11/11 | <i>No class- Veteran’s Day</i> |
| | 11/13 | |
| 13. | 11/16 | |
| | 11/18 | |
| | 11/20 | <i>No Class- Furlough Day</i> |
| | 11/21- 11/29 | <i>No Class- Thanksgiving Break</i> |
| 14. | 11/30 | |
| | 12/2 | |
| | 12/4 | |
| 15. | 12/7 | <i>No Class- Furlough Day</i> |
| | 12/9 | *Research paper due |
| | 12/11 | Final review |
| Finals | MWF 11:00 – 11:50 a.m. = Monday, December 14 th at 10:00 – 11:50 a.m. MWF 1:00 -1:50 p.m. = Wednesday, December 16 th at 2:00 -3:50 p.m. | |