

**AGBUS 101**  
**Introduction to Agricultural Economics**

**Instructor:** Dr. Mollie Aschenbrener  
215 Plumas Hall  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 10:00-11:00 a.m.; 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Schedule:** Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
Section One: 11:00- 11:50 a.m. Plumas 205  
Section Two: 2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. Plumas 205  
Section Three: 9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Plumas 102

**\*\* This semester, we will pilot a few online class sessions. You will know these dates in advance will be expected to complete an online assignment.**

**Course Description:**

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

**Course Objectives:**

1. Develop an understanding for the dynamic food industry.
2. Develop an understanding for basic business structures and their application to the agricultural industry.
3. Develop understanding of basic economic principles such as supply and demand, elasticities and marginal analysis.
4. Develop analytical skills as applied to economic interpretations of data presented in graphical formats.
5. Develop an understanding for basic business structures and their application to the agricultural industry.

**Course Materials:**

The recommended text book for this class is Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness (eighth edition) by Cramer, Jensen and Southgate. 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.

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### 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, 17 Student Services Building, 898-5959 or your course instructor immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.
2. 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.
3. Attendance and Participation – Regular attendance is expected. Please contact the instructor by e-mail prior to the absence if you must miss a class for any reason. **A note from the health center is not necessary nor does it preclude you from assignments or exams.** You will be responsible for obtaining handouts and/or materials that were distributed during your absence.
4. Late Assignments – All papers and assignments should be submitted on or before the due date. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**
5. 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 instructor's 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 assignments will be given throughout the semester. These are designed to assess your understanding and application of the material discussed in class. Additional details will be provided in class, thus attendance is very important!

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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		100	
Exam Two		100	
Final:		200	
Other Quizzes (based on discussion, feedback and participation)	You never know!	50	
<i>Homework Assignments:</i>			
6-10 homework assignments will be given during the semester.		10	
		10	
		10	
		10	
		10	
		10	
		10	
		10	
		10	
		10	
<b>TOTAL</b>		*	

\* 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 and Reading:

Topic		
Introduction The Food Industry- Chapter one	Week One	
Introduction to Agricultural Economics- Chapter Two	Weeks Two and Three	
Inflation, Nominal and Real Prices	Weeks Four and Five	
Graphs and slope of a line and slope of a curve	Week Six	
Demand- Chapter 3	Week Seven/ Eight	
<b>Midterm One</b>	Week Eight	
Elasticity – Chapter 16	Weeks Nine and Ten	Elasticity Assignment
Supply-Chapter 6	Week Eleven and Twelve	
Interaction between Demand and Supply	Weeks Twelve and Thirteen	
Shifts in Supply and Demand	Weeks Twelve and Thirteen	
<b>Midterm Two</b>	Weeks Twelve and Thirteen	
Law of Diminishing marginal utility- Chapter 3	Week Fourteen	
Marginal Analysis- Chapter 6	Weeks Fourteen and Fifteen	
Theory of Consumer Behavior – Chapter 15	Week Fifteen	
Business Organization- Chapter Two; Chapter 10	Week Fifteen	

9/6	No School... Labor Day
Week 8	<b>Midterm One</b>
Week 12/13	<b>Midterm Two</b>
11/21	<i>Thanksgiving Break- No Class</i>
11/23	<i>Thanksgiving Break- No Class</i>
11/25	<i>Thanksgiving Break- No Class</i>
12/10	<b>Final review</b>