

COOPERATIVES SEMINAR
ABUS 425: Fall 2008, Tuesday 5:00pm-6:50pm

Instructor: Dr. Dave Long

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Catalog Description: Cooperative principles and philosophy. Types and importance of cooperative activity in the U.S. Accounting for cooperative activity.

Prerequisites: ABUS 101, ABUS 311, or equivalents, Senior Standing.

Course Overview: The purpose of this course is to expose students to the uniqueness of the cooperative business structure and for them to gain knowledge and understanding of cooperatives' role in agriculture. California cooperatives will be an emphasis in the course.

Course Objectives:

1. Provide a historical background on cooperative development and the economic justification for the cooperative business structure.
2. Compare and contrast the different business and financial management techniques between cooperatives and other business organization structures.
3. Explain the process of organizing and developing new cooperatives as well as making necessary adjustments for existing cooperatives.

Text: The text for this class exists only in an online, internet-based format at this time. The text is a revision of a 1989 textbook on cooperatives. There are a couple of rules that have to be followed for us to access the online text:

1. Only students enrolled in this class have permission to view the text.
2. Only enrolled students view the assigned sections of the text from the website sections assigned by the instructor) for their personal use in this course.

The url for accessing the textbook for this class is::

http://www.agecon.ksu.edu/accc/tbookaccessCALaug07/login_page.htm

username: ABUS425

password: LONG

Unauthorized access, printing, and use of the text is a violation of copyrights laws and is illegal

Grading: Evaluation of a student's performance will be based upon two unit exams and a final

exam, five homework assignments, a group cooperative project (4 components, plus a presentation) and a field trip report. No extra credit or bonus assignments will be assigned or allowed. No makeup exams are allowed. Point distributions will be as follows:

2 Midterm Exams (100 points each)	200 Points
1 Final Exam (100 points)	100 Points
5 Homework Assignments or Quizzes (20 points each)	100 Points
Student Coops (4 parts @ 100 points each)	400 Points
Student Coops Proposal Presentation	100 Points
Field Trip Report	100 Points
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>100 Points</u>
TOTAL	1100 Points Possible

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to add, remove or alter any of the evaluation materials (exams, homework, etc.) in this class depending on circumstances. Any changes will be discussed and presented during class meetings. No material that has been completed and graded will be discarded for overall grading purposes.

Please feel free to discuss your grade on an exam or assignment with the instructor at anytime, **except during class time, before or after is fine**, if you have a concern about a grade on an assignment, exam, etc. it will not be discussed during class. If you feel that you deserve more credit than you received, please see me after class to discuss any grading on an item. Students will have one week from the time a paper, exam, etc. is returned to the class to discuss their grade on that activity. This policy will be very strictly adhered to.

Please contact me at anytime regarding your course grade. When discussing a grade prior to the posting of the final course grades, I will present it in terms of *generalities*. This is because the instructor does not know what the final grade will be until the final scores have been determined and are posted. Students should not think they have a “guaranteed” grade, based on a generalization.

Final grading will be based upon an overall class scale broken down, **approximately**, as follows:

<u>Points Earned (%)</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
94.0%+	A+
90.0- 93.9%	A-
87.0- 89.9%	B+
83.0- 86.9%	B
80.0- 82.9%	B-
77.0- 79.9%	C+
73.0-76.9%	C

70.0- 72.9	C-
67.0-69.9%	D+
60.0-66.9%	D
0-59.9%	F

Some of the grading on all assignments and exams will be dependent upon clarity and style. Neatness, legibility, spelling, and proper grammar are important components of written communication. Answers and assignments that are difficult to read and/or follow will be graded as incorrect. If I cannot read or understand the answer, then I cannot tell if it is correct.

In order to receive full credit, all assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on their due date; I will not accept any assignments after the due date. If you are not present in class you may email them to me early to indicate to me that the work is complete and on time. You are required to turn in a printed and stapled copy of all assignments. This policy will be strictly adhered to.

EXAMS: The exams will be non-comprehensive. **There are no makeup exams.** The structure of the exams is likely to be a combination of short answer and essay questions, but they can be of any format. Material from lectures, field trips, handouts, readings, discussions, videos, guest lecturers, etc. will be fair game for an exam. **Basically anything that goes on in the classroom or is assigned (this includes the readings) has the potential to show up on an exam. ALL** exams must be taken to receive a passing grade in the course.

Coop Assn: Early in the semester, the class will be broken into small groups of 3 to 4 students each. The group of students will be chosen randomly. The purpose of this group project is to develop and propose your own cooperative. The cooperative can be of any type (financial, agricultural supply, housing, parking, etc.). There are five components to this group assignment. They are listed below.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Identification and justification
2. Articles of Incorporation, bylaws and the operating principles and procedures
3. Prospectus and business plan
4. Executive Summary, Conclusion
5. Presentation to Lending Company

DUE DATES TBA

The five components are worth 100 points each. Each component will include an individual score plus a team score that can add up to a maximum of 100 points. Team members will be given an opportunity to score their performance on the team as well as others. Groups may also fire a team member due to lack of participation (not showing up, not completing assigned tasks. Details on each component will be handed out in plenty of time before the due date.

Field Trip: This course has a **required** 2-day field trip scheduled for mid to late October.

The field trip is an integral part of the course and must be attended, it is mandatory. The course is not separated into two parts meaning a student cannot take just the lecture part of the class for a reduced number of academic units and not do the field experience.

There is a report associated with the field trip as well. The report and the trip are not optional. Failure to participate in the trip or turn in a report will result in failure in the course. The report generally runs about 6-8 pages and it is due in **early November**. The instructor will keep the reports for her records.

The field trip is a university sponsored activity and is considered an extension of the classroom. Thus, the University's student conduct policies are in tact for the duration of the field trip. Students will be required to sign documents indicating their willingness to participate on the field trip. If you do not wish to follow these guidelines, you will not be allowed to participate in the trip. You are representing California State University, Chico, the College of Agriculture, the instructor and ABUS425 with your conduct and deportment during the field trip. Be responsible. Failure to act appropriately will result in failure on the assignment (reflected in your field trip report points) and possible failure in the course or even expulsion from the university. Let's make sure none of that happens.

Necessarily, this course does have a fee associated with it, and the fee must be promptly paid. The fee is \$30 for Chico State students and will be used to pay for field trip transportation. This amount is to be paid to the University, following standard procedures. If the fee creates a financial hardship, please see me immediately. Students are expected to pay for personal lodging and meals during the trip (this is in addition to the course fee for transportation).

All due dates and time for assignments are tentative and subject to change depending on circumstances. The dates for the exams will not be changed except by very extenuating circumstances.

Attendance:

All students are expected to attend class and behave in a professional manner. You are all adults who can make your own decisions. Classes will not be dismissed the days before or after school vacations and holidays. Students are expected to be present and prepared before the lecture. Regular attendance is important to achieve a deeper understanding of the material. You are encouraged to ask questions at any time and expect to be called upon to answer questions.

Integrity:

Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for the respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards (e.g., cheating and plagiarism) must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions. The university's policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. It is the student's responsibility to know and understand the CSUC Academic Honesty Policy. The university's policy is provided in their catalog as well as via its web site. Ignorance of university policies and to what constitutes academic dishonesty are not acceptable excuses in this matter. If there is evidence that the student has been involved in any form of academic dishonesty, they will receive an 'F' grade for the course, be locked from WebCT, and a report will be provided to Student Judicial Affairs for further action.

Religious Accommodation:

Students will receive reasonable accommodation of religious beliefs and significant personal problems with regards to scheduling of examinations and other course requirements.

Disabilities:

Students will receive the accommodations needed to ensure equal access to educational opportunities, programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate. Students with concerns are required to consult the instructor and university as soon as possible. If you have a disability that requires special accommodations, you must contact a counselor at Disability Support Services, (530) 898-5959.

Tentative Reading Schedule for ABUS 425 — Fall 2008

Per Topic Readings

1	Introduction: Requirements, Expectations, Group Project. What is a Cooperative?	Syllabus, Info Sheet, Chapter 1
2	Principles, Legal Forms, and Public Policy Structure and Scope of Cooperatives	Chapter 2 Chapter 3
3	Historical Development Economic Justification	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
4	Student Cooperative Project: Starting a Cooperative	Chapter 18
5	Cooperatives Legal Environment Cooperatives and Antitrust	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
6	Managerial Skills, Functions and Participants Directors and Managers	Chapter 10 Chapter 11 Identification and Justification of Student Cooperative Due
7	Student Cooperative Project: Starting a Cooperative and the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, and Operating Principles	Chapter 18
8	Cooperative Field Trip (Tentative)	Mid to late October
9	Understanding and Measuring Cooperative Returns	Chapter 12
10	Creating and Distributing Returns	Chapter 13 Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, and Operating Principles of Student Cooperative Due
11	Managing Capital Structure	Chapter 14
12	Student Cooperative Project: Prospectus and Business Plan	Chapter 18 Field Trip Report Due
13	Taxation	Chapter 15
14	Marketing Strategies	Chapter 16

		Chapter 17 (long, cut it down) Prospectus and Business Plan of Student Cooperative Due
15	Student Cooperative Proposals	30 Minute Proposals to Agricultural Lending Professionals
16	FINAL EXAM .FINAL WEEKS	