

Clarendon College
Division of Science and Health
Agriculture Department

AGRI 2317: Introduction to Agricultural Economics
Fall 2011

Course Syllabus

Meeting Time: 10:00 – 10:55 Monday – Wednesday – Friday

Meeting Place: CRSN 107

Instructor: Mr. Brian Fuller

Office Hours: Mon/Wed: 9:00-10:00,11:00-12:00, 1:00-3:00

Tues/Thur: 2:00-3:00 Friday: 9:00-10:00

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Office: CRSN 115

Course Description:

Fundamental economic principles and their applications to the problems of the industry of agriculture.

Statement of Purpose:

Introduction to Agricultural Economics partially satisfies the requirements for the Associates Degree at Clarendon College and is designed for transfer to a senior college.

Course Objectives:

Students will understand the basic concepts, theories, and principles of Agricultural Economics.

Student Outcomes:

- Define and understand the term agricultural economics.
- Recognize and evaluate different economic graphs/charts.
- Interpret and discuss the different economic theories.
- Understand a pro/con analysis of current and past U.S. agriculture policies.
- Evaluate a study of international trade policies.
- Evaluate the use of tariffs and trade embargos on the U.S. agriculture economy.
- Understand the theory behind consumer behavior.

- Look at business behavior and how it relates to market equilibrium.
- Study the government's role in the food and fiber industry.
- Study the role of macroeconomics in Agriculture.
- Study the role of microeconomics in Agriculture.

Required Text:

Capps, Oral Jr., John B. Penson, Jr., C. Parr Rosson III and Richard T. Woodward. *Introduction to Agricultural Economics*. 4th Edition. Pearson, Prentice Hall. Upper Saddle River: New Jersey, 2006.

Methods of Instruction:

This course centers upon class lecture and discussion. Discussion is essential for the exchanging of ideas and a greater understanding of the content. Therefore, questions will be asked in order to make a more complete learning environment. It is essential for the student to read the class assignments as a basis for the class. Videos and other materials will also be a part of the instructional process.

Grading Policies:

The final semester grades will be figured as set in the current catalog:
90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D 59 or Below = F

Grades will be calculated as follows:

4 Exams (including the final) @ 80% of total grade
Discussion and Participation @ 10%
Assignments @ 10%

Each exam will be administered after the completion of the respective unit. Discussion and participation will be based upon the student's involvement in the class. Attendance and participation is required and expected. Final Exam: Students must take a final. The time for the final is published at the beginning of each semester. The fourth exam of the semester will be the "Final" Exam and will be administered during the scheduled final exam time. Make-up exams will only be given in rare cases. Arrangements must be made with the instructor prior to the student missing the exam.

Class Participation and Attendance:

As stated earlier, class participation and attendance is required and expected. All absences validated by doctor's notes, Clarendon College Personnel requests (Coaches, Deans, etc.), and instances of extreme emergency as determined by the instructor will be considered excused. All other absences will be considered unexcused. A total of five or more unexcused absences will result in the complete forfeit of the Class Participation grade. It is vital for the education of the student as well as the other students for each student to participate in class discussions and to be involved in the learning process.

Withdrawal: If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a “W” on our transcript instead. Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate. If you do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive a grade of “F” on your transcript. A student is permitted to drop a course if he/she obtains an official drop slip from the office and has the instructor sign the slip before the 12th class week. Remember, a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6th course, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

Classroom Policies:

Classroom Conduct

Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom instructor is a disruption for all students enrolled in the class. Cheating violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion; (2) discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given; (3) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment; (4) entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage; (5) taking an examination for another person; (6) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (7) altering grade records; (8) using any unauthorized form of electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; (9) Plagiarism. Plagiarism is the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one’s own, an idea, expression, or production of another person without proper credit. Disciplinary actions for cheating in a course are at the discretion of the individual instructor. The instructor of that course will file a report with the Dean of Students when a student is caught cheating in the course, whether it be a workforce or academic course. The report shall include the course, instructor, student’s name, and the type of cheating involved. Students who are reported as cheating to the Dean of Students more than once shall be disciplined by the Dean. The Dean will notify all involved parties within fourteen days of any action taken.

American with Disabilities Act Statement:

Clarendon College provides reasonable accommodations for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities. Should you require special accommodations, notify the Office of Student Services (806-874-3571 or 800-687-9737). We will work with you to make whatever accommodations we need to make.

Dropping a Course:

A student who is enrolled in a developmental course for TSI purposes may not drop his/her only developmental course unless the student completely withdraws from the college. A student may drop any other course with a grade of “W” any time after the census date for the semester and on or before the end of the 12th week of a long semester, or on or before the last day to drop a class

of a term as designated in the college calendar. The request for permission to drop a course is initiated by the student by procuring a drop form from the Office of Student Services. (Refer to other policies concerning this issue in the current college catalog online.)

Withdrawal from College:

When a student finds it necessary to withdraw from school before the end of the semester, he or she should obtain a withdrawal form from the Office of Student Services. Students may also withdraw from the college by sending a written request for such action to the Registrar's Office. The request must include the student's signature, the student's current address, social security number and course information details. Students who withdraw after the census date for the semester and on or before the end of the 12th week of a long semester, or on or before the last day to drop a class of a term as designated in the college calendar will be assigned a grade of "W."

Student Expectations and Guidelines:

In addition to the previously stated expectations and guidelines, students are expected to adhere to the following:

- 1) Grant respect to each other and to the instructor and respect shall be shown to you.
- 2) Refrain from using profane or obscene language or gestures at all times in class.
- 3) Dress in clean, appropriate and courteous clothing.
- 4) Refrain from using any communication device, except in emergency situations.
- 5) Absolutely no form of any communication device (cell phone, PDA, laptop, carrier pigeon, or any other imaginable device) will be allowed during exams, quizzes, or other testing periods. Upon visualization of the device, the instructor will remove the exam or other testing material from the student, ask the student to leave the room and assign a grade of zero to the material.
- 6) No material other than the exam and writing utensil will be allowed on the student's desk during an exam unless approved by the instructor. Approved devices will only include items such as calculators, approved formula sheets, or other test appropriate material.
- 7) No hats, caps, or head coverings of any kind will be allowed at any time during a testing period. This includes all students, male and female. If a head covering of any kind is worn during the testing period, the student will be asked to remove the object. If the student refuses to remove the covering or cannot remove the covering and return to the class and finish the exam during the scheduled time, a grade of zero will be assigned to the material.
- 8) Please keep restroom breaks and other interruptions to a bare minimum.
- 9) Please notice the emergency evacuation map and be cognizant of what steps to take in case of emergency (fire, tornado, etc.).

Course Outline

Part One:

Introduction

Chapter 1: What is Agricultural Economics?

Chapter 2: The U.S. Food and Fiber Industry

Part Two:

Understanding Consumer Behavior

Chapter 3: Theory of Consumer Behavior

Chapter 4: Consumer Equilibrium

Chapter 5: Measurement and Interpretation of Elasticities

Part Three:

Business Behavior and Market Equilibrium

Chapter 6: Introduction to Production and Resource Use

Chapter 7: Economics of Input and Product Substitution

Chapter 8: Market Equilibrium and Product Price: Perfect Competition

Chapter 9: Market Equilibrium and Product Price: Imperfect Competition

Part Four:

Government in the Food and Fiber Industry

Chapter 10: Natural Resources, the Environment, and Agriculture

Chapter 11: Government Intervention in Agriculture

Part Five:

Macroeconomics of Agriculture

Chapter 12: Product Markets and National Output

Chapter 13: Macroeconomic Policy Fundamentals

Chapter 14: Consequences of Business Fluctuations

Chapter 15: Macroeconomic Policy and Agriculture

Part Six:

International Agricultural Trade

Chapter 16: Agriculture and International Trade

Chapter 17: Exchange Rates and Agricultural Trade

Chapter 18: Why Nations Trade

Chapter 19: Agricultural Trade Policy and Preferential Trading Arrangements

