INTRODUCTION TO AG ECONOMICS - Online
Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
Division – Agribusiness Management Systems

Course Number: ECN 1103
Credit Hours: 3
Semester: Fall 2018 On-Line

Instructor: Mary Rittenhouse
Office: Ag Hall #35A
Email: mrittenhouse2@unl.edu
Phone: 308.367.5275

Virtual Office Hours: TWTh: 3 – 4 p.m.
Other times by appointment
While virtual office hours are provided when students can expect me to be in the office, students are welcome and encouraged to email/phone me with their questions and concerns when they arise. Every effort will be made to answer messages within 24 hours during the week unless otherwise notified. Over the weekend, or when not on campus, every effort will be made to respond within 48 hours. In addition, each Chapter will have a Discussion Board thread for questions/concerns relevant to that chapter to share with the class.

AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS MISSION
The Agribusiness Management Systems major supports the college mission by striving to develop students into competent citizens through general education and promoting involvement, innovation, and individuality in the agribusiness industry.

ECN 1103: Intro to Ag Econ meets the following Agribusiness Management Systems Program Outcomes:
- Demonstration of computer skills
- Apply economic information to real world situations
- Think critically and demonstrate problem-solving skills
- Read, comprehend, and analyze basic financial statements and demonstrate basic accounting skills.

ECN 1103: Intro to Ag Econ supports the following General Education Outcomes:
- Quantitative literacy
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define economics and identify major elements of micro and macroeconomics
2. Identify and define major elements of individual consumer and producer behavior with ag examples
3. Determine optimum consumer satisfaction, optimum producer profit and equilibrium price and quantity at which product sells in a free market economy
4. Define and identify different types of markets including free market, monopoly, oligopoly and command markets
5. Identify and define limiting factors affecting ag markets including: government policy, environmental protection issues and foreign competition and international trade
6. Identify and define aggregate supply and demand in an ag macro economy and how equilibrium price and quantity are determined.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
This course is designed to introduce the student to basic economic concepts at work in today's micro and macroeconomic Ag market place. Emphasis is placed on consumer and producer behavior in the market, supply and demand factors at play in the market, various types of competition, and how various limiting factors affect both the micro economy and the macro economy.

**COURSE PREREQUISITE**
None

**REQUIRED TEXT and MATERIAL**

Additional Course materials needed to complete the course will be provided to students via Canvas. Technology requirements include the following:
- Canvas
- Microsoft Office: Word and Excel
- Firefox, Chrome servers preferred
- Skills
  - Use emails with attachments
  - Create and submit files in Microsoft Word

**LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: CANVAS**
Canvas will be used as the method of delivery for the class. All materials and documents relevant to the course outlined will be posted on Canvas in the appropriate module. Power point slides and other supplemental materials and resources will be made available to students on Canvas.

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS/ASSISTANCE**
The following will be required to successful complete this course:
- An internet connection (preferably high speed)
- A supported Web browser (Google Chrome or Firefox recommended)
- A word processing program capable of saving documents in .doc, .docs, or .rtf format (Microsoft Word strongly recommended as Apple/Mac programs tend not to be compatible with NCTA office equipment)
- Adobe Reader 9 or later
- Canvas will be the Management Learning System used for this course.
  - A student training module is available at: https://canvas.unl.edu/courses/382
- Canvas is available as a Mobile App for both Apple and Android
- Moodle will be launched from the Canvas home page for this class. The majority of the material will be accessed on Moodle.
  - Instructions are provided to access the course content on the home page of Canvas
- Requirements:
  - Canvas: [https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2061-accessibility-within-canva](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2061-accessibility-within-canva)
COURSE DELIVERY
Online using Canvas. Login information has been emailed to you. When you accept the course invitation you can create an account on Canvas.

TENTATIVE COURSE TOPIC OUTLINE
WEEK 1
CHAPTERS 1 & 2 – What is Ag Economics and the US Food and Fiber industry
WEEK 2
CHAPTER 3 & 4 – Consumer Behavior and Consumer Equilibrium and Market Demand
WEEK 3
CHAPTER 5 – Elasticities
WEEK 4
UNIT TEST 1 – Test over Chapter 1-5 text and material
CHAPTER 6 – Production and Resource Use
WEEK 5
FINISH CHAPTER 6
START CHAPTER 7 – Input and Product substitution
WEEK 6
CHAPTER 7 – finish Chapter 7
WEEK 7
CHAPTER 8 – Market Equilibrium under Perfect Competition
WEEK 8
UNIT TEST 2 -Test over Chapter 6-8 text and materials
Start Chapter 9
WEEK9
CHAPTER 9 - Market equilibrium under various types of Imperfect Competition
WEEK 10
CHAPTER 10 – Natural Resources, the Environment and Agriculture
WEEK 11
CHAPTER 11 & 12 - Government Intervention and National Output
WEEK 12
UNIT TEST 3 – Test over Chapters 9-12 text and materials
WEEK 13
CHAPTERS 13 & 14 – Macroeconomic policy fundamentals and Consequences of Business Fluctuations
WEEK 14
Quiz over Chapters 13 & 14
Thanksgiving Break
WEEK 15
Chapter 15 – Macroeconomics policy and Agriculture
WEEK 16
Chapter 16 – Agriculture and International Trade

FINAL EXAM – Unit Test over Chapters 13-16

ASSESSMENT
Academic assessment is the process for ongoing improvement of student learning and success. The assessment program at NCTA has four specific interrelated purposes:
1. To improve student learning
2. To improve teaching strategies
3. To document successes and identify opportunities for improvement
4. To provide evidence for institutional effectiveness

Criteria for Assessment:
1. **Pre-Chapter Quizzes**: Each chapter will have a short quiz worth 20 points that will focus on the vocabulary and overall concepts discussed in the assigned chapter. This quiz is designed to give students exposure to the material before class discussion begins. Quizzes will be distributed and taken on Canvas. You will be given two attempts to complete the quiz.

2. **Chapter Assignments**: Selected chapters will have a 30-point assignment that focuses on the application of the concepts discussed. These will be distributed via Canvas and students will respond via Canvas. You will be given two attempts at completing the assignment.

3. **Discussion Boards**: To replace class discussion, each unit have a discussion board thread. In addition, each student will be asked to contribute to an introduction thread. Students will be required to consider the question posted and post a reply to the question as well as reply to one of the other students in the class. A matrix will be provided to help guide responses.

4. **Class Activities (Dual Credit classes)**: With the assistance of zoom and the classroom instructor class (for Dual Credit) activities will be done to help students better understand the concept and develop relevance to the real world.

5. **Exams**: There will be four (4) exams to assess individual knowledge and understanding of the concepts discussed in the class. Each exam is worth 100 points.
   a. **Identity Verification**: All exams must be proctored with an approved proctor. The required form identifying the proctor can be found on the Course Exam page on Canvas. This form is a word document that can be filled out and returned to the email address provided with the form. The form needs to be received a minimum of one week prior to the exam.

NOTE: For all quizzes, assignments, cases, and exams late submissions will not be accepted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Activities</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Percentage of Total (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Assignments</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Activities</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,250</strong></td>
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**NCTA Grading Scale**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100.0-100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90.0-99.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>86.7-90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>83.3 – 86.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80.0-83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>76.3-80.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>73.3-76.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70.0-73.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>66.7-70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>63.3-66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0-63.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>00.0-60.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Grades are not rounded up and a grading scale is not used. What you earn is what you receive.
* Decimals are removed when the final grade is assigned. For example, 89.8% is recorded as 89%. So, yes, a 59.99% is an F.
COURSE POLICIES

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
NCTA’s policy on plagiarism and dishonesty will be strictly enforced. Students are advised to review the policy:
http://ncta.unl.edu/documents/Faculty_Staff_Resources/NCTA%20plagiarism%20policy%206.29.2016%20FINAL.pdf

A word about plagiarism. We all are familiar with the homework sites on the web that allows you to search questions. These are there to help you find the process, or logic, behind a problem. If you copy and paste the answer from one of these sites without properly citing the source, it will be considered plagiarism and you will receive a zero for this. Use these sites to increase your understanding…not simply a grade. It will not help you on the exam.

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR: This is expected. Be respectful of all members of this class. Assignments are expected at the date and time listed.

DISABILITY
Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Kevin Martin, ADA/504 Compliance Officer, 308-367-5217, Education Center Room 113E, for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture to provide individualized accommodations to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements.

TITLE IX
Title IX is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or gender in all programs and activities. The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture will not discriminate on grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or any other factor prohibited by law in providing any educational or other benefits or services. For more information or to report a Title IX incident, please contact Jennifer McConville, Title IX Coordinator, 308-367-5259, Ag Hall Room 25.