Course Number: ECN 1203  
Credit Hours: 3  
Semester: 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 and/or scheduled zoom meeting for questions/concerns relevant to that chapter to share with the class.

AGRICULTURE 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 1203 PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS 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

ECN 1203 PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS supports the following General Education Outcomes:
- Written communication
- Quantitative literacy
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Analysis and evaluation of markets. Demand, supply, elasticity, production costs, consumption utility, monopoly, competition, monopolistic competition, oligopoly, allocative and technical efficiency, and income distribution Resource markets, unions, antitrust laws, agriculture, international trade, and other economic problems and policies.

COURSE PREREQUISITE
None
TEXTBOOK
A purchases textbook is not required for this course. All materials and documents relevant to the course outlined will be posted on Canvas in the appropriate module.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: CANVAS
Canvas will be used as the method of delivery for the class. Zoom videos, power point slides and other supplemental materials and resources will be made available to students on Canvas.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS/ASSISTANCE
The following tools will be used for this course. (Web site for downloads linked):
- Canvas: http://ncta.unl.edu/canvas
- Internet Access: preferably high speed
- Microsoft Office: Word and Excel
- Firefox, Chrome servers preferred
  - https://www.google.com/chrome/
- Adobe Reader
  - https://get.adobe.com/reader/
- Adobe Flash Player
  - https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
- Skills
  - Ability to use a learning management system (LMS)
  - Use emails with attachment
  - Create and submit files in Microsoft Word and Excel Make sure you are able to access these. Google docs will not be accepted.
  - Create and submit files in the required LMS

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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
At the completion of this course you will be able to:
1. Demonstrate ability to analyze data using graphs.
2. Explain the role of scarcity, opportunity cost and the cost/benefit analysis in economic decision-making.
3. Identify and describe basic principles of demand, supply, and market equilibrium.
4. Relate how determinants of demand and supply affect prices.
5. Explain the relationship between elasticity and total revenue.
6. Identify the four market structures by characteristics.
7. Identify and illustrate short-run and long-run costs of production.
9. Explain how market structure and government intervention affects the ag industry.
**COURSE TOPIC OUTLINE**

This course follows the NCTA campus academic schedule. With that in mind the tentative outline for this course will follow the schedule for the NCTA Micro class. Your course may meet on a different combination of days but the following schedule outlines what is due when and provides information for exams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1:   | August 26-30 | Intro/Syllabus/Graphing  
Tools of the trade…graphs & numbers  
Lesson 1 Foundations of the Science of Economics |
| 2:   | Sep 2 - 6 | No Class: Labor Day  
Lesson 2 – Choices….& Consequences |
| 3:   | Sept 9 – 13 | Lesson 3 – Forces of a Market Economy |
| 4:   | Sept 16 – 20 | Exam #1 (100 pts)  
Lessons 1 - 3 |
| 5:   | Sept 23 – 27 | Lesson 4 – Economic Elasticity: When is enough enough???
| 6:   | Sept 30 – Oct 4 | Lesson 5 – Consumer’s Choices |
| 7:   | Oct 7 – 11 | Lesson 6 – What if the market fails? |
| 8:   | Oct 14 - 18 | Exam #2 (100 pts)  
Lessons 4 – 6 |
| 9:   | Oct 21 – 25 | Monday: No NCTA Classes-Fall Break  
Lesson 7 – Supply Side Intro – Costs of doing business |
| 10:  | Oct 28 – Nov 1 | Lesson 8 – Market Structures & Pure Competition |
| 11:  | Nov 4 – 8 | Lesson 9 – Monopoly |
| 12:  | Nov 11 – 15 | Lesson 10 – The Imperfect Markets |
| 13:  | Nov 18 – 22 | Wednesday: Exam #3 (100 pts)  
Lessons 7 - 10 |
| 14:  | Nov 25 - 29 | Monday: Lesson 11: Ag Econ – It’s make up and design  
Wednesday: No NCTAClasses-Thanksgiving Break  
**Friday: No NCTA classes-Thanksgiving Break** |
| 15:  | Dec 2 – 6 | Lesson 12: Natural Resources and Agriculture |
| 16:  | Dec 9 – 13 | Wednesday: Lesson 13: Government Intervention in Ag |
| **Final Week** | | Final will be due by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 |
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. **Chapter Pre Lesson Quizzes**: Each chapter will have a short quiz that will focus on the vocabulary and overall concepts discussed in the chapter. This quiz is designed to give students exposure to the material before class discussion begins.

2. **Chapter Online Assignments**: Each chapter will have an assignment that focuses on the application of the concepts discussed.

3. **Class Participation Activities**: The purpose of this assessment is to reflect the level of the student’s engagement in the classroom. In an online course this will be done via Zoom meetings and Discussion Board contributions. It has been continuously proven that active involvement in learning increases what is remembered, how well it is understood, and how the learning is used in new situations. It also reflects the level of preparation for the class shown by the students. Please plan on meeting, via Zoom, at the dates and times specified on the calendar.

4. **Exams**: There will be four (4) exams to assess individual knowledge and understanding of the concepts discussed in the class.
   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, 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>Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Assignments</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Activities</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,230</strong></td>
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NCTA Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100.0-100.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90.0-99.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>86.7-90.0</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>83.3 – 86.7</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80.0-83.3</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>76.3-80.0</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>73.3-76.3</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70.0-73.3</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>66.7-70.0</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>63.3-66.7</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0-63.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>00.0-60.0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</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

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.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

You are encouraged to work together on work assigned in this course. However, unless specifically identified that you can hand in one submission for your group, what you submit are expected to be in your own words. Rule of thumb: if I can tell at a glance whom you worked with, then you have gone beyond the bounds of acceptable collaboration. Students whose submissions are identical, or nearly identical, will be award an un-droppable negative grade for the first time. For example, if the assignment is work 20 points you will receive a grade of minus 20. This grade cannot be considered your low grade to drop. Any subsequent violations will be considered a violation of the NCTA Plagiarism Policy.

Online homework sites can be a useful tool to use. However, if you copy and paste the work it will be considered plagiarism and the assignment will receive a zero.

As defined by the NCTA Plagiarism Policy there will be a “zero-tolerance” standard for plagiarism. Students are expected to have read the NCTA Student Code of Conduct and Plagiarism Policy and be familiar with the definition and consequences of engaging in plagiarism. This policy can be accessed at: http://ncta.unl.edu/documents/Faculty_Staff_Resources/NCTA%20plagiarism%20policy%206.29.2016%20FINAL.pdf