

NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE

Course: Introduction to Agricultural Economics

Course Number: ECN 1103

Credit Hours: 3

Semester: Spring 2026

Course Time: Asynchronous

Course Location: Online

Instructor: Reagan Cavanaugh, M.S.

Office Location: Ag Hall 35C

Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours: MWF 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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Student Learning Outcomes

The goals for this course are for students to understand and display knowledge of the following:

- Producer/Consumer Theory
- Agricultural Markets
- Resource Markets
- Agricultural trade and policies

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Apply market analysis (supply and demand) to various commodity market scenarios
- Explain agricultural production and consumption by using economic theory for support
- Discuss the impact of regional, national, and global agribusiness policy
- Use these ideas to frame decisions unique to each student

Course Description

This course will include an overview of food and agricultural issues. Goals of this course will be to: introduce students to the agribusiness sector of the U.S., survey of economic concepts that affect food and agricultural issues and developing an understanding of the interconnectedness of agricultural supply businesses, farm and ranch production, food markets, distribution, and consumption.

Course Prerequisite

None

Textbook

OpenStax Principles of Microeconomics 3e (Free, Online)

<https://openstax.org/details/books/principles-microeconomics-3e>

Technology Requirements

Students must have:

- Reliable internet connection
- Laptop/desktop computer. Mobile devices are not recommended
- Ability to upload documents
- Ability to stream video
- Access to Canvas

Canvas Learning Management System

All course materials, assignments, exams, grades, and updates will be managed through Canvas. It is essential to check Canvas regularly to stay informed about course requirements and deadlines. For any questions or issues, please email me directly.

If you have any issues using Canvas, please view the student training module:

<https://canvas.unl.edu/courses/382>

Online Expectations

- This is a fully online asynchronous course. Students are expected to:
- Log in to Canvas at least 3 times each week
- Complete weekly modules consisting of readings, lecture videos, quizzes, and application assignments
- Submit all work by Sundays at 11:59 p.m. CST
- Check Canvas announcements regularly

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:

- Weekly Quizzes – 35%
- Weekly Discussion Boards – 35%
- Midterm Exam – 15%
- Final Exam – 15%

Grading Scale

NCTA maintains a uniform grading scale which is provided below.

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Points</i>
A+	100.0 – 100.0	4.00
A	90.0 – 99.9	4.00
A-	86.7 – 90.0	3.67
B+	83.3 – 86.7	3.33
B	80.0 – 83.3	3.00
B-	76.3 – 80.0	2.67
C+	73.3 – 76.3	2.33
C	70.0 – 73.3	2.00
C-	66.7 – 70.0	1.67
D+	63.3 – 66.7	1.33
D	60.0 – 63.3	1.00
F	00.0 – 60.0	0.00

Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Academic integrity is a cornerstone of our educational community. Any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in severe consequences. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Cheating – Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage in your coursework, including but not limited to using unauthorized materials, copying from others, or collaborating inappropriately.
- Plagiarism – Submitting work that is not your own, whether from published sources or from others' work, without proper citation and attribution.
- Use of AI – The use of artificial intelligence tools to complete assignments, write papers, or generate any content that is to be submitted for academic credit is strictly prohibited.

Any indication of academic dishonesty, including the use of AI, will result in an automatic grade of zero for the assignment in question. Further disciplinary actions may include a failing grade for the course. It is your responsibility to understand and adhere to these guidelines. Ignorance of these rules will not be accepted. Ensure that all your work is your own and that you maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Exams will require Respondus LockDown Browser.

NCTA's plagiarism policy can be accessed at:

https://ncta.unl.edu/documents/Faculty_Staff_Resources/NCTA%20plagiarism%20policy%206.29.2016%20FINAL.pdf

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.