

**INTRODUCTION TO AGRIBUSINESS**  
**AGRI 220 - Fall 2020**  
**School of Agriculture – Western Illinois University**

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**INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Graciela Andrango

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**Office Hours:** 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. on M, W, TH, and F  
or by appointment via Zoom (Check your  
email or Western Online for Zoom link and  
passcode)

**CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS:**

AGRI 220 will meet on M, W, and F via Zoom. Section 001 meets from 9:00-9:50 a.m. and Section 002 meets from 11:00-11:50 a.m.

Check your email or Western Online for Zoom link and passcode.

**EMAILS:**

Please be sure to include the course and section in which you are enrolled in any email.

**TEXTBOOK:**

- Principles of Agricultural Economics, Third Edition. Barkley, Andrew and Barkley, Paul W. ©2016. Routledge Taylor& Francis Group.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

The goal of AGRI 220 is to introduce students to agricultural management concepts and general knowledge base needed to run a small profit oriented agribusiness in today's competitive environment. The course serves as an opportunity for students:

1. To develop a basic understanding of the principles of agribusiness and to apply them in addressing agricultural issues.
2. To understand agriculture in the U.S. and world economies.
3. To improve the ability to think critically and to articulate responsible decision-making by using graphical and quantitative tools to address economic problems.
4. To be exposed to the socioeconomic aspects of public policy issues regarding the agricultural/rural sector.

**EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS:**

**Participation:** Students are expected to read the chapter and activities assigned each week~ see course outline at the end of this document.

**Academic Integrity:** The rules and regulations outlined in the University's policy on academic integrity are applied to this course. See <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>. Any violation of the Academic Dishonesty Policy in Student Handbook will result in an automatic failure in the course.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Detailed information regarding student rights and responsibilities can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student/>. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the posted information.

**Special Accommodations:** If you need special accommodations, please feel free to discuss your needs with me. Set an appointment with me via Google Meet.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

September 7, Monday	Labor Day – No Class/ University Closed
November 1, Sunday	Last day to drop with a W
November 3, Tuesday	Election Day (State Holiday for 2020 -- No Classes/University Closed)
November 23-27, Monday-Friday	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes
December 16, Wednesday	Final Exam: AGRI 220-01: 8:00 – 9:50 p.m. AGRI 220-02: 10:00 – 11:50 p.m.

**GRADING POLICY:**

The course grade will be based on the following factors, with weightings as indicated:

Midterm Exam I	15%	A = 93% or above	C = 73 - 76.99%
Midterm Exam II	15%	A- = 90 - 92.99%	C- = 70 - 72.99%
Midterm Exam III	15%	B+ = 87 - 89.99%	D+ = 67 - 69.99%
Comprehensive Final Exam	15%	B = 83 - 86.99%	D = 63 - 66.99%
Online assignments	15%	B- = 80 - 82.99%	D- = 60 - 62.99%
Online quizzes	15%	C+ = 77 - 79.99%	F = <60%
Class exercises & Kahoot! quizzes	10%		
Total		100%	

Grade breaking points may be lowered, but in no case will they be raised. These breaking points will be evaluated only after final numerical grades have been calculated.

**Attention Education Majors:** The changes within the state teaching license require all education majors to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet Illinois teaching license requirements. With the university +/- grading system, receiving a "D+" or below will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet School of Agriculture graduation requirements.

**EXAMS:**

There will be 3 midterms and one final exam. Midterms 1 to 3 will consist mostly of True/False, fill in the blank, matching, and multiple-choice questions along with a limited number of short answer questions and/or problem solving question. **The final exam will be comprehensive** (same format as semester exams). Makeup exams will only be given in extreme situations.

**ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS:**

These assignments will focus on understanding key concepts with heavy reliance on graphing and problem solving. I strongly encourage you to work on your own before checking your answers with your classmates. Each week you will have one assignment related to each chapter and **reading related to that chapter**. Assignments will open on Monday as we start the chapter and will close on Sundays at 11:59 p.m. Late assignments will be docked 10% per day and will not be accepted after the assignment key has been uploaded on Western Online.

*Readings related to the chapter being covered will be uploaded on Western Online. It is my goal to use these readings to help you understand the principles covered in class and link them to real life situations. Questions related to the reading will be in the online assignments, online quizzes, and/or exam.*

**ONLINE QUIZZES:**

Ten-point quizzes on lectures, readings and/or other references, under a True/False, fill in the blank, matching, multiple choice, small essay or calculations format, will be open in Western Online each Sunday and will close that same day at 11:59 p.m. You will be able to take the quiz two times any time on Sunday. The highest score will be recorded.

**CLASS EXERCISES & KAHOOT! QUIZZES:**

Class exercises. Class exercises will be used to reinforce your understanding of each topic, primarily calculations. I will share a file with you, so you can work on a specific exercise. To solve the problem, you can use your notes, work with a classmate, and/or ask the instructor.

Kahoot! quizzes will be based on lectures, readings and/or other references. We will use True/False, fill in the blank, and multiple choice format. Kahoot! quizzes will be used during class to reinforce your understanding of the many concepts we will be covering in AGRI 220.

**GRADING DISAGREEMENTS:**

If a student disagrees with a particular answer, it is the student's responsibility to provide a logical reason in writing as to the reason for their disagreement. This does not apply to scoring errors. All instructors are human and occasional errors in grading will occur. Please bring any such errors to the instructor's attention immediately.

**ACCREDITATION:**

The School of Agriculture is housed in the College of Business and Technology which is accredited by AACSB-International.

### AGRI 220- COURSE OUTLINE

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic/ Material</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Assignments/ Activities/ Due dates</i>
1	Aug 24 – Aug 30	Introduction to the economics of agriculture	1	<b><i>Due: Aug 30 (11:59 p.m.)</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online quiz- Chapter 1</li> <li>▪ Assignment- Introduction to the economics of agriculture</li> </ul>
2	Aug 31 – Sept 06	The economics of production	2	<b><i>Due: Sept 6 (11:59 p.m.)</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online quiz- Chapter 2</li> <li>▪ Assignment- The economics of production</li> </ul>
3	Sept 07 – Sept 13	The costs of production <i>Sept 07- Labor Day- No class</i>	3	<b><i>Due: Sept 13 (11:59 p.m.)</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online quiz- Chapter 3</li> <li>▪ Assignment- The costs of production</li> </ul>
4	Sept 14 – Sept 20	Profit maximization	4	<b><i>Due: Sept 20 (11:59 p.m.)</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assignment- Profit maximization</li> <li>▪ Midterm 1: Ch 1 – 4</li> </ul>
<b><i>Midterm 1. Sept 20</i></b>				
5	Sept 21 – Sept 27	Optimal input selection	5	<b><i>Due: Sept 27 (11:59 p.m.)</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online quiz- Chapter 5</li> <li>▪ Assignment- Optimal input selection</li> </ul>
6	Sept 28 – Oct 04	Optimal output selection	6	<b><i>Due: Oct 04 (11:59 p.m.)</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online quiz- Chapter 6</li> <li>▪ Assignment- Optimal output selection</li> </ul>
7	Oct 05 – Oct 11	Consumer choices	7	<b><i>Due: Oct 11 (11:59 p.m.)</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online quiz- Chapter 7</li> <li>▪ Assignment- Consumer choices</li> </ul>
8	Oct 12 – Oct 18	Supply	8	<b><i>Due: Oct 18 (11:59 p.m.)</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assignment- Supply</li> <li>▪ Midterm 2: Ch 5 – 8</li> </ul>
<b><i>Midterm 2. Oct 18</i></b>				

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<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic/ Material</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Assignments/ Activities/ Due dates</i>
9	Oct 19 – Oct 25	Demand	9	<b>Due: Oct 25 (11:59 p.m.)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online quiz- Chapter 9</li> <li>▪ Assignment- Demand</li> </ul>
10	Oct 26 – Nov 01	Markets	10	<b>Due: Nov 01 (11:59 p.m.)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online quiz- Chapter 10</li> <li>▪ Assignment- Markets</li> </ul>
11	Nov 02 – Nov 08	Government policies	11	<b>Due: Nov 08 (11:59 p.m.)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online quiz- Chapter 11</li> <li>▪ Assignment- Government policies</li> </ul>
12	Nov 09 – Nov 15	The competitive firm	12	<b>Due: Nov 15 (11:59 p.m.)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assignment- The competitive firm</li> <li>▪ Midterm 3: Ch 9 – 12</li> </ul>
<b>Midterm 3. Nov 15</b>				
13	Nov 16 – Nov 22	Market power	13	<b>Due: Nov 22 (11:59 p.m.)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online quiz- Chapter 13</li> <li>▪ Assignment- Market power</li> </ul>
14	Nov 23 – Nov 29	<i>Thanksgiving Break- No class</i>		
15	Nov 30 – Dec 06	Agriculture and the global economy	14	<b>Due: Dec 06 (11:59 p.m.)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online quiz- Chapter 14</li> <li>▪ Assignment- Agriculture and the global economy</li> </ul>
16	Dec 07 – Dec 13	Economics, agriculture, and the environment	15	No quizzes/ No assignment
17	Dec 14 – Dec 18	<b>Final Comprehensive Exam- Chapters 1 to 15:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AGRI 220-01: Wednesday, Dec 16 from 8:00 to 9:50 a.m.</li> <li>▪ AGRI 220-02: Wednesday, Dec 16 from 10:00 to 11:50 a.m.</li> </ul>		

**NOTE:** Please be advised that this syllabus is tentative. All classes are different and we may or may not be able to address all of the content areas or stick with the anticipated number of exams. Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.