

INTRODUCTION TO AGRIBUSINESS
AGRI 220 – Fall 2022
School of Agriculture – Western Illinois University

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. on M, W, TH, and F
or by appointment

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS: AGRI 220 will meet on M, W, and F in Knoblauch 306. Section 01 meets from 9:00 to 9:50 a.m. and Section 02 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

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/ Attendance & Sitting Chart: Attendance is required and will be graded through Kahoot! Quizzes. Students' participation in class is strongly encouraged. Students are expected to read the chapter and activities assigned each week – see course outline at the end of this document.

Absences: If at any time you have a family emergency, funeral, or illness (including Covid), please use the Online Absence Reporting System (OARS) system to report your absence (www.wiu.edu/oars). Please note that OARS system does not excuse your absence – it merely documents it. It is still up to the instructor to excuse the absence (see above for valid excuses). I will need the email generated from this system prior to class and not after. If I receive the email after class has started then the late grade policies come into effect. Excessive absences will result in failure of the course. The student remains responsible for contacting the instructor to arrange to complete missed work as soon as possible and is ultimately responsible for material covered in class.

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 Integrity Policy in Student Handbook will result in an automatic failure in the course.

Plagiarism is not tolerated in this class. Works evidenced as plagiarism (accidental or willful use of someone else's words, ideas) will be penalized by a failing grade on the homework, quiz, or exam. In addition, the instructor will follow the procedure according to the Student Academic Integrity Policy- see link above.

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

Policy on disruptive behavior: Students will face disciplinary action if they are found to be non-compliant with WIU's COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy (http://www.wiu.edu/policies/covid_safety.php). Non-compliance may be considered disruptive student behavior and disciplinary action will follow general process outlined in disruptive student behavior procedures (<http://www.wiu.edu/policies/disrupst.php>) and/or other applicable enforcement measures applicable to the Code of Student Conduct.

Special Accommodations: Students with disabilities: In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

University values: University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/report.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/dhsm.php>.

USE OF CELLULAR PHONES, SMART WATCHES, TABLETS, AND LAPTOPS:

As a courtesy to other students and to the instructor, all cell phones should be turned off prior to class. Continued disregard of this policy may result in ejection from the course. If, due to medical or public safety concerns, a student needs an exception to this policy he/she should inform the instructor prior to class. Cell phones are not allowed under any circumstances on exams.

Use of laptops or tablets is not allowed in class unless it is required by the instructor to conduct research or any class activity related to the topic being covered. Lecture notes will be available at Western Online and must be printed in advance. **Texting or surfing the internet** is not allowed during class and repeated violations may lead to dismissal from the course with an assigned grade of F.

TOBACCO POLICY:

Tobacco use of any kind will not be tolerated in class. This includes chewing tobacco.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, September 05	Labor Day – No Class/ University Closed
Friday, October 14	Fall Break – No Class/ University Closed
Sunday, October 30	Last day to drop classes or withdraw from the university
Tuesday, November 08	2022 General Election Day – No Class/ University Closed
November 21 – 25	Thanksgiving Break – No Class/ University Closed
Wednesday, December 14	Final Comprehensive Exam: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Section 01: 08:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.▪ Section 02: 10:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.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%
Homework & Class Exercises	15%	B- = 80 - 82.99%	D- = 60 - 62.99%
Weekly in-class quizzes	15%	C+ = 77 - 79.99%	F = <60%
Online quizzes	5%		
Participation & Kahoot! quizzes	5%		
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 Illinois State Teaching License requirements, students are required to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet state requirements. With the university's +/- grading system, receiving a grade below a "C-" 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. Exams will consist of True/False, fill in the blank, matching, multiple-choice, open-ended, and/or problem solving questions. **The final exam will be comprehensive** (same format as semester exams). Makeup exams will only be given in extreme situations.

HOMEWORK AND CLASS EXERCISE:

Homework 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. You will have one assignment related to each chapter and/or **reading related to that chapter**. Late assignments will be docked 10% per day and will not be accepted after the assignment key has been uploaded on Western Online or the rest of the students have received back their homework graded.

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 assignments, quizzes, and/or exams.

Class exercises will be used to reinforce your understanding of each topic, primarily calculations. I will provide you with a problem, so you can work on it. To solve the problem, you can use your notes, work with a classmate, and/or ask the instructor. **Class exercises must be submitted immediately after the class session. No submission of a class exercise will be reported as a zero.**

WEEKLY IN-CLASS QUIZZES:

Ten-point quizzes on lectures, readings and/or other references – True/False, fill in the blank, multiple choice, essay, and/or problem solving questions will be **scheduled each Friday**. There will be no makeups, no taking the quizzes early or coming to class late just to take quizzes. The lowest score quiz will be dropped. **If a student has an official excused absence in writing (illness, judging team, etc.) reported before class has started, the student is responsible to work with the instructor to arrange to take the quiz.** The instructor reserves the right to use both announced and unannounced quizzes. **Not completed quizzes after the following Monday, will be reported as a zero.**

ONLINE QUIZZES:

Ten-point quizzes on lectures, readings and/or other references – True/False, fill in the blank, multiple choice, essay, and/or problem solving questions will be available through Western Online. There will be one quiz per chapter and they are designed to help you study and practice each topic. Online quizzes will be open as we start each chapter and will close on Wednesday, December 14 at 11:59 pm. **Not completed quizzes after Dec 14, will be reported as a zero.**

PARTICIPATION & KAHOOT! QUIZZES:

Kahoot! Quizzes (and other methods such as Menti or BitPaper) will be based on lectures, readings and/or other references. We will use True/False, fill in the blank, multiple choice, and/or open-ended questions format. Kahoot! quizzes will be used during class to reinforce your understanding of the many concepts we will be covering in AGRI 220. **No participation in Kahoot! quizzes will be reported as a zero.**

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 22 – Aug 26	Intro to the economics of ag	1	Due: Friday, Aug 26 ▪ Quiz 1
2	Aug 29 – Sept 02	The economics of production	2	Due: Friday, Sept 02 ▪ Quiz 2
3	Sept 05 – Sept 09	The costs of production <i>Sept 05 – Labor Day- No class</i>	3	Due: Friday, Sept 09 ▪ Quiz 3
4	Sept 12 – Sept 16	The costs of production	3	Due: Friday, Sept 16 ▪ Midterm 1: Ch 1 – 3
Midterm 1. Friday, Sept 16				
5	Sept 19 – Sept 23	Profit maximization	4	Due: Friday, Sept 23 ▪ Quiz 4
6	Sept 26 – Sept 30	Profit maximization	4	Due: Friday, Sept 30 ▪ Quiz 5
7	Oct 03 – Oct 07	Optimal input selection	5	Due: Friday, Oct 07 ▪ Quiz 6
8	Oct 10 – Oct 14	Optimal output selection <i>Oct 14 – Fall break- No class</i>	6	Due: Wednesday, Oct 12 ▪ Quiz 7
9	Oct 17 – Oct 21	Supply	8	Due: Thursday, Oct 21 ▪ Midterm 2: Ch 4 – 6, 8
Midterm 2. Friday, Oct 21				
10	Oct 24 – Oct 28	Consumer choices	7	Due: Friday, Oct 28 ▪ Quiz 8
11	Oct 31 – Nov 04	Demand	9	Due: Friday, Nov 04 ▪ Quiz 9
12	Nov 07 – Nov 11	Markets	10	Due: Friday, Nov 11 ▪ Quiz 10
13	Nov 14 – Nov 18	Government policies	11	Due: Friday, Nov 18 ▪ Midterm 3: Ch 7, 9 – 11
Midterm 3. Nov 18				
14	Nov 21 – Nov 25	<i>Thanksgiving</i>		<i>No classes/ No Homework</i>
15	Nov 28 – Dec 02	The competitive firm	12	Due: Friday, Dec 02 ▪ Quiz 11
16	Dec 05 – Dec 09	Market power	13	No quizzes/ No Homework
17	Dec 12 – Dec 16	Final Comprehensive Exam (Chapters 1 to 13) - Wed, Dec 14: ▪ Section 01: 08:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. ▪ Section 02: 10:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.		

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.