AGR 130 COURSE SYLLABUS

Class Time and Location:
AGR 130-01  TR    8:00 – 9:15    Oakley AS 204S
AGR 130-02  MW    8:00 – 9:15    Oakley AS 300S

Instructor:
Dr. C. Gustav Helmers, Ph.D.                      Dr. William Payne
Phone: 809-6932                                    Phone: 809-5401
Email: chelmers@murraystate.edu                   Email: bill.payne@murraystate.edu
Office Hours:
10:30am-11:30am, 2:00pm-3:00pm MW
9:30am-11:00am, 1:00pm-2:30pm TR

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS OUTLINE

HUTSON SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

COURSE NUMBER: AGR 130    CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. TITLE:
Agricultural Economics

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
A study of fundamental principles of economics as applied to agriculture. Attention is given to resource use, economic growth, production fundamentals, economic institutions, and agriculture in relation to national and world economic problems. (Fall and Spring).

III. PURPOSE:
From a broad perspective, students in this class are assumed to have some interest in understanding “everyday” agricultural economics. My goal is to help you become a better citizen through a greater understanding of both agricultural and general economic news reports on TV, radio, and newspaper, and how such events affect our lives.

More specifically, the purpose of this course is to provide beginning students in agriculture with an introduction to the basic economic concepts and issues related to the food and fiber industry. This requires students to understand both the microeconomic and macroeconomic forces that influence the decisions of producers and consumers of food and fiber products. Additionally, this class will explore government intervention and the role of agricultural economics from a macroeconomic perspective.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
This course is designed to approach agricultural economics from a broad perspective -- to assist students in applying economic principles to their academic areas within agriculture, such as (but not
limited to): agribusiness, animal science, agronomy, horticulture, and agricultural systems management. More specifically, the objectives of this course are as follows:

By the end of the course, you will be able to...

1. Understand and use the basic language (jargon and terminology) of agricultural economics.
2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of economic principles as applied to the student’s area of interest within agriculture.
3. Exhibit understanding of the economic decisions made by consumers and producers of food and fiber products.
4. Identify the role of government and farm programs in establishing the well-being of farm households.
5. Appreciate the importance of economics in your everyday life!

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:

A. Introduction to economics and agricultural economics
B. Economic changes and trends in the food and fiber industry
C. Utility theory
D. Supply, demand, and equilibrium
E. Elasticity and its application to supply and demand decisions
F. Production possibilities
G. Production functions and production decisions
H. Cost theory
I. Marginal analysis
J. Market structures
K. Natural resource economics
L. Government intervention and international trade

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

The class will consist of two lecture/discussion sessions per week, ten minor assignments or quizzes, four assignments, occasional reading assignments, two regular exams, and a final exam. Practical applications of economic principles to agriculture will be stressed.

A. Classroom activity – lecture, discussion, and participatory projects.

B. Assignments
Several practice exercises will be posted throughout the semester to emphasize key concepts from the course material. Practice exercises are not mandatory, but will indicate material important for the exams; thus, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you complete the assignments and check them against the key posted.

Assignments are MANDATORY. The lowest grade of the assignments will be dropped. As the assignments are likely to be discussed during class time, they are due at the beginning of class. If you have University-related excused absences, provide information prior to the event in order to make up for any assignments.

C. Reading assignments
Reading assignments will be provided through handouts and postings on Blackboard from time to time. You will be expected to have read the assignments, so that you may ask
relevant/important questions and participate in the class discussion. You will also be required to read some current events articles, press reports, etc. to complete assignments.

D. Minor assignments and quizzes
Quizzes may be posted online. You will have 3 attempts to take an online quiz, and your best score will be the one recorded. You must take the quiz within 48 hours of the posted date in order for it to be counted (i.e., no late quizzes will be allowed). In addition, quizzes may be given in class or minor assignments will be given in place of a formal quiz.

E. Exams
There will be 2 exams during the regular class hour, and a final during finals week. All exams will be closed book. Since the concepts in economics (and agricultural economics) tend to build on one another, the exams are cumulative during the semester, but will emphasize the most recent material. A review sheet will be available on Blackboard prior to the exam or provided in class.

You may bring a 3”x5” index card to the exam with important material on both sides of the card. Use of a larger index card, a card not in your own handwriting, or multiple cards is cheating and will be dealt with according to the policies of the course. Only material in your own handwriting is permitted on the card. Before the exam begins you must clear your desk of all items except your one card, writing instrument, and calculator. Make-up exams may be taken during finals week to replace missed exams.

F. Other information
1. Obtaining assignments and the pursuit work is the responsibility of the individual student.
2. Conditions of this syllabus may be changed and announced at any class meeting.
3. Every effort will be made to inform the student of course expectations. Trickery and subterfuge will be avoided. Students are encouraged to consult with the professor on academic progress or any other matter affecting class performance. Extra group or individual study periods will be scheduled if requested by the student(s).
4. The final exam will be held as scheduled in the class schedule bulletin.

VII. FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:
None

VIII. RESOURCES:
A. Hand held/pocket calculator is necessary, but graphing or others are permitted.
B. Personal computer with internet and printer access
Blackboard will be used extensively to post course materials. You are responsible for checking the website prior to class and bringing any updated materials with you. You may access the Blackboard course page at the following address http://estudy.murraystate.edu/webapps/login/. In addition, the internet will be used for the completion of many assignments.
IX. **GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Point values used to assign grades earned for the class will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Hourly Exams</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes/Homework</td>
<td>50 (5 points each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>150 (3 @ 50 points each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Letter grades are derived from the point system as explained above.

- 90%-100% A
- 80% - 89% B
- 70% - 79% C
- 60% - 69% D
- 0% – 59% E

Extra work to raise your grade at the end of the semester is not allowed. Students are advised to keep up as class progresses.

*No make-up exams will be given.*

No make-up of quizzes and/or in-class assignments is permitted. Quizzes and assignments that are not completed will receive a grade of zero (0).

X. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attending class is crucial to your success in this course. Please refer to the most current copy of the *Murray State University’s Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin* for academic regulations concerning attendance (http://www.murraystate.edu/provost/catalogs/G601University.html#Attendance).

XI. **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

(Adopted by the MSU Board of Regents)

Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person’s material as one’s own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers, or the presentation on unacknowledged material as if it were the student’s own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.
NOTE: The School of Agriculture Faculty have adopted and implemented an Academic Honesty Policy in addition to the University Honesty Policy, which can be found in the current Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin. The policy sets guidelines regarding acts of dishonesty and the procedure to follow should an event occur. It is each Agriculture student’s responsibility to obtain and read a copy of this document. The School’s Academic Honesty Policy can be obtained by asking for a copy from any Agriculture Faculty member or the Secretary. Additionally, the Academic Honesty Policy is available on Blackboard under the “Course Information” tab.

ANY INSTANCE OF CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC FAILURE OF THIS COURSE.

XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES:
Penson, Capps, Rosson, and Woodward, Introduction to Agricultural Economics, 5TH, 2010, 0-13-159248-3, Prentice Hall, Recommended

XIII. PREREQUISITES:
None.

XIV. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:
If any student has any type of special needs or other need requiring special services, please notify the instructor immediately at the beginning of the semester and accommodations will be arranged.

XV. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT:
Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Sabrina Y. Dial, Director of Equal Opportunity, Murray State University, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071-3318. Telephone: 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).

XVI. MSU SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE CELL PHONE POLICY
The School of Agriculture recognizes that in today’s world cell phones are a familiar and often necessary form of communication for students.

It shall be the policy of the School that no cell phone usage shall be allowed in class and/or labs without the prior consent of the course instructor. This shall include verbal calling, incoming calls, email, text messaging, and use of cell phone calculators on tests and quizzes.

Cell phones must be kept off and out of sight (i.e. secured to a person’s belt or kept in a bag or purse away from desks and lab counters).

Should a student’s cell phone be visible, ring, or other form of unauthorized usage that is interruptive to the class or lab, the student may be asked to leave class and not return for that class/lab period.
Upon prior consent of the instructor, a student may obtain permission to have their phone on in case of an emergency or in critical family situations.

This policy also includes pagers and other electronic equipment such as Blackberries and/or computers/laptops.

**If a cell phone is out at any point during class, a pop quiz will be given immediately over material of the instructor’s choice.**

XVII. **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES**

A. **Score Revisions**

Instructors are human – there will be an occasional grading error. If the problem is with the grading of an essay answer on an exam, or if there are several problems, then please come by to see me in my office. If there is a simple problem, just see me before or after class or in my office. When requesting grading revisions, please come with a “perfect” answer in mind, and we’ll compare that to what you have written. If the score is too low, it will be raised immediately. **Be sure to have a system to keep handouts, quizzes, assignments, exams, etc. and be prepared to present graded papers when reporting grade recording errors.**

B. **Tobacco Use**

Tobacco use of any kind is not permitted in this class. The use of mouth tobacco will result in you being asked to leave the class.

I have read and understand the content and requirements of this syllabus and agree to its terms.

COMPLETE THIS FORM ON BLACKBOARD UNDER THE ASSIGNMENT TAB

________________________________________________________

Name (Print)

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Signature Date