SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

COURSE NUMBER: AGR 438       CREDIT HOURS: 2

I. TITLE:

Seminar in Agricultural Systems

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A course designed to enhance students’ understanding of and experiences in, agricultural systems. The two emphases that will be available in this seminar are managing a successful agribusiness and production operation. This class is intended for students transferring to MSU through the Transfer Bridge program from the Agricultural Technology Program at KCTCS schools. Seminars and Field experience outside of class required. The course may be taken for 2 hrs as the agribusiness emphasis or for 2 hours as the production agriculture emphasis. The course can be repeated for a maximum of 4 hours credit by taking each emphasis.

III. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to develop and enhance students’ knowledge and understanding of agricultural technology including agricultural production and business systems and how they impact local production agriculturalists and the economy.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A. To acquaint students with agricultural systems.
B. To develop students’ understanding of modern agriculture systems.
C. To enable students to visualize the importance of the agriculture systems and their main consequences upon other local markets.
D. To utilize local experiences to develop new and innovative ideas, marketing techniques, and profitable paths in the agriculture systems sector.
E. To establish contacts and relationships with agricultural systems for current and future gain for students and the local industry.
F. To allow students to research and report on local agriculture systems so the industry can become more profitable in their market sector and students can gain experience.
V. CONTENT OUTLINE:

A. Agribusiness Emphasis
   1. Agribusiness in perspective
   2. Managing the agribusiness
   3. The organization of an agribusiness
   4. Cooperative in agribusiness
   5. Brief financial statement overview
   6. Tools for controlling an agribusiness
   7. Personnel management

B. Production Agriculture Emphasis
   1. Local and regional agriculture production systems and viewpoints
   2. United States agricultural production systems
   3. Grain crop operations
   4. Forage crop operations
   5. Livestock operations
   6. Horticultural operations
   7. Tobacco production systems
   8. Supplemental production agriculture systems

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

A. Seminars and field days outside of class required
B. Journal- students will keep a professional journal of all class activities
C. Laboratory experiences (include experiences in Journal)
D. Class Presentation/ Written Report and Oral
E. Research Reports

VII. FIELD, CLINICAL AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:

All students are required to participate in a field experience in a local agricultural business system. Students will report their overall investigation of the experience and relay their understanding in written form and in an oral presentation.

VIII. RESOURCES:

A. Journals
B. Magazines
C. Library
D. Internet
E. Regional Agribusiness Operations
IX. **GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Student grades will be calculated as follows:

- Seminars and field days outside of class: 100 points
- Journal of Activities: 300 points
- Class Presentation/ Written Report and Oral: 150 points
- Research Reports on 3 Business/Farm Enterprises: 300 points

Total: 850 Points

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

- A = 100 - 90%
- B = 89 - 80%
- C = 79 - 70%
- D = 69 - 60%
- E = 59% or below

X. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Please refer to the most current copy of the Murray State University’s Undergraduate Bulletin.

XI. **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

Please refer to the most current copy of the Murray State University’s Undergraduate Bulletin.

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.

XII. **TEXT AND REFERENCES:**

A. *Agribusiness Management*, David Downey, Steven Erickson, Fred Barnard and Jay Taylor Akridge Third Edition 2001
B. Other selected readings as assigned by the instructor
XIII. PREREQUISITES:

None

XIV. 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 Director of Equal Opportunity, Murray State University, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071-3318. Telephone: 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).

XV. MSU SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE CELL PHONE POLICY

The School of Agriculture recognizes that in today’s world cell phones are familiar and often necessary forms 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.