SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

COURSE NUMBER: AGR 439
CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. **TITLE:**

Software Applications for Agriculture

II. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A course designed to develop an enhanced understanding of software titles specific to the field of Agriculture today. Students will study the latest industry standard software programs & techniques in a hands-on environment. Software studied will enhance student skills in farm, nutrient & livestock management, as well as, customer profiling, billing for custom application and technical communication. Prerequisites: AGR 339.

III. **PURPOSE:**

To develop an appreciation, understanding, and practical application of computer software applications used in the agriculture industry.

IV. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

As a result of participation in this course, students will:

A. Develop an understanding of the systems required in utilizing software for resource management, customer profiling, marketing and multi-user agricultural business applications.
B. Develop skills in using applications software for decision making in agriculture, including recordkeeping, agricultural education, animal health, horticulture and agricultural mechanization.
C. Develop advanced skills in communication via electronic means including e-mail, web pages, video & teleconferencing.

V. **CONTENT OUTLINE:**

A. Electronic Communication Systems
B. Customer Profiling & Databases
C. Desktop Publishing
D. Economic Recordkeeping for Agricultural Business
E. Livestock Management & Ration Formulation Software
F. Nutrient Management & Small Farm Records/Billing
G. Precision Agriculture Software Applications  
H. File/Application Sharing Based on Networking Systems  

VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**  
A. Classroom Activity – lecture and discussion to assist hands-on computer assisted solving of agriculture-related problems.  
B. Assignments – written and oral often in project form requiring the use of several software systems.  
C. Demonstrations – how to use software programs.  
D. Laboratory assignments utilizing University farm.  

VII. **FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:**  
Students will be assigned to a group to research and demonstrate agricultural software by constructing a large-scale project analyzing an agricultural business/industry using each of the content areas listed above.  

VIII. **RESOURCES:**  
A. At least 10 - 3 ½” diskettes  
B. Hand-held pocket calculator  
C. Three ring hardback notebook  
D. Sufficient plastic diskette holders to hold 10 diskettes.  
E. Felt-tip pen, paper and stick on labels to properly identify all diskettes used.  

IX. **GRADING PROCEDURES:**  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Assignments</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests and Quizzes</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Experience Report</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Research Demonstration/Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>900</td>
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Letter grades will be assigned from the following scale:  
90 - 100 = A  
80 - 89 = B  
70 - 79 = C  
60 - 69 = D  
Below 60 = E  

All assignments are expected at the beginning of the period on the date due.
X. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

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

XI. **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students’ academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

**Violations of Academic Honesty include:**

- **Cheating** - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

- **Fabrication and Falsification** - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

- **Multiple Submission** - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

- **Plagiarism** - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one’s own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Instructors should outline their expectations that may go beyond the scope of this policy at the beginning of each course and identify such expectations and restrictions in the course syllabus. When an instructor receives evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, he or she should investigate the instance. The faculty member should then take appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).

2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.

3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

**If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.**
Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

NOTE: The Hutson School of Agriculture Faculty have adopted and implemented an Academic Honesty Policy in addition to the University Academic Honesty Policy. 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:

None

XIII. PREREQUISITES:

AGR 339 Computer Applications for Agriculture

XIV. STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

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 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 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.