I. **TITLE:**

Agricultural Finance

II. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A study of the needs and problems of financing farm and farm service businesses, including a study of credit institutions serving American agriculture.

*To receive graduate credit for this course, a student must be admitted to graduate studies prior to registering for the course.*

III. **PURPOSE:**

To gain a better understanding of the role played by financial analysis in planning, analyzing, and controlling business performance in production agriculture and agribusiness firms.

IV. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To demonstrate use of selected tools and techniques of financial analysis.
2. To identify and describe the role of credit in the farm business.
3. To use the techniques of financial analysis to analyze the usefulness of credit under different conditions.
4. To evaluate business risk and financial risk in agricultural businesses and to describe alternative methods of risk management.
5. To gain a better understanding of the various financial intermediaries available to producers and agribusinesses.

V. **CONTENT OUTLINE:**

A. Nature and Scope of Financial Management
B. Managerial Goals
C. Financial Statements and Information Flows
D. Financial Analysis and control
E. Financial Planning and Feasibility Analysis
F. Interpretation and analysis of financial statements.
G. Liquidity, Lender-Borrower Relationships, and Credit Evaluation
H. Risk Management
I. Financial Intermediaries in Agriculture
J. Legal Aspects of Agricultural Credit

VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Assignments- oral and extemporaneous
Classroom activity- lecture, discussion and participatory projects

Other Information:
A. Obtaining assignments and the pursuant work is the responsibility of each individual student.
B. Conditions of this syllabus may be changed and announced at any time.
C. Every effort will be made to inform the students of course expectations. Trickery and subterfuge will be avoided. Students are encouraged to consult with the teacher on academic progress or any other matters affecting class performance. Extra group or individual study periods will be scheduled if requested but the student(s).

VII. **FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:**

None

VIII. **RESOURCES:**

None

IX. **GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Grades will be determined by cumulative scores on all examinations and project assignments to the point in time grades are to be turned in to the appropriate university office. In order for you to approximate your grade at any point in time, you may rest assured that the following grade structure will be strictly enforced:

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\begin{align*}
A & = 90 - 100 \\
B & = 80 - 89 \\
C & = 70 - 79 \\
D & = 60 - 69 \\
E & = 59 - 0
\end{align*}
\]

Graduate students will be required to write a research paper on agricultural finance above and beyond the work required for undergraduate credit.
All makeup exams will be handled on an individual basis. Makeup exams will only be allowed for reasonable excuses, such as hospitalization, a family crisis or official representation at a university-sanctioned function. Efforts will be made to schedule exams at times that do not conflict with university-sanctioned activities.

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:**

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


XIII. **PREREQUISITES:**

None

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 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).

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.