

INTRODUCTION TO AGRIBUSINESS
AGRI 220 – Fall 2023
School of Agriculture – Western Illinois University

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: 12:00 to 12:50 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 from 11:00 to 11:50 a.m.

EMAILS: Please include the course and section you are enrolled in in any email.

TEXTBOOK:

- Principles of Agricultural Economics, Third Edition. Barkley, Andrew and Barkley, Paul W. ©2016. Routledge Taylor& Francis Group.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The goal of AGRI 220 is to introduce students to agricultural management concepts and the general knowledge base needed to run a small profit-oriented agribusiness in today's competitive environment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course serves as an opportunity for students:

1. To develop a basic understanding of agribusiness principles and 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 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 the 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.

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 Disability Resources in the Student Development and Success Center at 309-298-1884, disability@wiu.edu, or in 125 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

Military/Veteran Support Statement: As a military-friendly institution, and in accordance with federal regulations and Illinois statutes, Western Illinois University has established *policies* and procedures to accommodate military service students. In addition to the supports available at WIU's Veterans Resource Center (wiu.edu/student_success/veterans / 309-298-3505), veterans, members of the National Guard or Reserves, and active-duty military personnel with military obligations (e.g., deployments, training, drill) are encouraged to communicate these, in advance whenever possible, to the instructor. The Military Service *Policy* can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/military.php>

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. The policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/dhsm.php>.

Technical Support for Western Online:

- Provided through the Western Online Brightspace Virtual Assistant by clicking on the **Get Help! link/icon at the bottom right corner of every page** in Western Online.
- Instructions for using the Virtual Assistant can be found at https://wiu.edu/citr/home/get_help.php.
- All other technical support, including issues with enrollment in online courses, should be requested by contacting:

University Technology (uTech) Support Center

Website: http://www.wiu.edu/university_technology/

Phone: (309)298-TECH (8-8324)

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) is your go-to resource at any stage of the writing process! Appointments are available in three formats: in-person (3rd Floor, Malpass Library or QC Complex 2219), online (real-time with video or chat and document sharing), and tutoring (asynchronous feedback on an uploaded paper).

Visit wiu.mywconline.com to schedule an appointment, or call (309) 298-2814. **Fall 2023 UWC Hours at the 3rd Floor, Malpass Library:** M – Th: 9 AM - 9 PM, F: 9 AM - 4 PM, and Sun: 2 - 9 PM

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, Sep 4	Labor Day – No Class/ University Closed
Friday, Oct 20	Fall Break – No Class/ University Closed
Sunday, Oct 29	Last day to drop classes or withdraw from the university
Nov 20 – 24	Thanksgiving Break – No Class/ University Closed
Wednesday, Dec 13	Final Comprehensive Exam: 11:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.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	10%	B- = 80 - 82.99%	D- = 60 - 62.99%
Weekly in-class quizzes	15%	C+ = 77 - 79.99%	F = <60%
Independent Initiative	5%		
Online quizzes	5%		
Participation & Kahoot! quizzes	5%		
Total		100%	

Grade breaking points may be lowered, but they will never be raised. These breaking points will be evaluated only after calculating final numerical grades.

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 three 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, heavily relying on graphing and problem-solving. I strongly encourage you to work independently 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 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 makeup, no taking the quizzes early, or coming to class late to take quizzes. **The lowest score quiz will be dropped. Suppose a student has an official excused absence in writing (illness, judging team, etc.) reported before class has started. In that case, the student is responsible for working with the instructor to arrange to take the quiz before class starts on Monday. Not completed quizzes after the following Monday will be reported as a zero.** The instructor reserves the right to: 1) use both announced and unannounced quizzes; and 2) drop the lowest in-class quiz grade at the end of the semester, provided the student has not missed any quiz.

INDEPENDENT INITIATIVE ACTIVITY (IIA):

During the Fall 2023 semester, you must participate in three activities outside of the classroom that have contributed to your knowledge within the scope of this course. You must submit one page that contains a description of the activity and how it helped you understand a specific concept related to agribusiness management.

Possible activities:

- Active participation in the Agribusiness Club.
- Attending talks related to agriculture and its economics (guest speakers in any other of your classes do not count).

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. One quiz per chapter will be designed to help you study and practice each topic. **Online quizzes will open as we start each chapter and close on Monday, Dec 13, at 11:59 pm. Not completed quizzes after Dec 13 will be reported as a zero.**

PARTICIPATION & KAHOOT! QUIZZES:

Kahoot! Quizzes 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 cover 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

Week	Date	Topic/ Material	Chapter	Assignments/ Due dates
1	Aug 21 – Aug 25	Intro to the economics of ag	1	<i>Due: Friday, Aug 25</i> ▪ Quiz 1
2	Aug 28 – Sep 01	The economics of production	2	<i>Due: Friday, Sept 01</i> ▪ Quiz 2
3	Sept 04 – Sep 08	The economics of production <i>Sept 04 – Labor Day – No class</i>	2	<i>Due: Friday, Sept 08</i> ▪ Quiz 3
4	Sept 11 – Sep 15	The costs of production	3	<i>Due: Friday, Sept 15</i> ▪ Midterm 1: Ch 1 – 3 ▪ IIA report
<i>Midterm I. Friday, Sept 15</i>				
5	Sept 18 – Sep 22	Profit maximization	4	<i>Due: Friday, Sept 22</i> ▪ Quiz 4
6	Sept 25 – Sep 29	Profit maximization	4	<i>Due: Friday, Sept 29</i> ▪ Quiz 5
7	Oct 02 – Oct 06	Optimal input selection	5	<i>Due: Friday, Oct 06</i> ▪ Quiz 6
8	Oct 09 – Oct 13	Optimal output selection	6	<i>Due: Friday, Oct 13</i> ▪ Midterm 2: Ch 4 – 6 ▪ IIA report
<i>Midterm II. Friday, Oct 13</i>				
9	Oct 16 – Oct 20	Supply <i>Oct 20 – Fall Break – No Class</i>	8	<i>Due: Friday, Oct 20</i> ▪ No quiz
10	Oct 23 – Oct 27	Consumer Choices	7	<i>Due: Friday, Oct 27</i> ▪ Quiz 7
11	Oct 30 – Nov 03	Demand	9	<i>Due: Friday, Nov 03</i> ▪ Quiz 8
12	Nov 06 – Nov 10	Markets	10	<i>Due: Friday, Nov 10</i> ▪ Midterm 3: Ch 7 – 10 ▪ IIA report
<i>Midterm III. Friday, Nov 10</i>				
13	Nov 13 – Nov 17	Government policies	11	<i>Due: Friday, Nov 17</i> ▪ Quiz 9
14	<i>Nov 20 – Nov 24</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>		<i>No Class</i>
15	Nov 27 – Dec 01	The competitive firm	12	<i>Due: Friday, Dec 01</i> ▪ Quiz 10
16	Dec 04 – Dec 08	Market power	13	<i>Due: Friday, Dec 08</i> ▪ No quiz
17	Dec 11 – Dec 15	<i>Final Comprehensive Exam – Chapters 1 – 13 Wednesday, Dec 13, from 11:00 am to 12:50 pm</i>		

NOTE: Please be advised that this syllabus is tentative. All classes are different, and we may or may not be able to address all content areas or stick with the anticipated number of exams. Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.