



AGEC  
1113  
Fall 2022

# Introduction to Agricultural Economics

## Why take this class?

Agriculture and Economics are two of the most important topics to study, so why not put them together in one class? We learn about the importance of agriculture, the economic theory of production, marketing, and consumption of agricultural products and natural resources. But what does that mean? It means we learn how producers and consumers make decisions!

We then extend our knowledge of decision making to look at the role and structure of agricultural sciences within the American economy, and the policies used to achieve efficiency and welfare goals for agriculture.

There are no prerequisites for this class, just bring your enthusiasm and inquisitive mind! You will leave our classroom an Economist!

**Tuesday & Thursday  
9:00am - 10:15am  
ANSI 123**

*"Rapid changes in the agricultural industry make this an exciting time to study Agricultural Economics. Changes in the global economy and in the agricultural industry are occurring at a more rapid rate than at any other time in history, and these changes have huge implications for the entire domestic economy".*

Excerpt from Chapter 1  
of Course Text.

# How you can do well in this course:

## Attendance

Attendance is highly encouraged and I have found that students that consistently attend class earn on average 12% higher final grades.

## Application

Completing our course assignments is the best way to practice applying concepts covered in lecture to real world problems and analysis. It also helps you prepare for assessments like quizzes and exams! Assignment due dates can be found on our course schedule as well as visible on our course Canvas page. Late assignments can earn 50% credit if submitted with 24 hours of the deadline.

## Assessment

Few students enjoy assessments, but as an instructor it helps me determine if you are achieving our course objectives. Assessments can cause anxiety and sometimes you just have a bad day, so in our course I drop several quiz assessments and one exam. You can see our course evaluation structure on the next page.



Principles of Agricultural Economics: 2020 Third Edition by Andrew Barkley, and Paul W. Barkley, New York NY: Routledge.



Our course textbook, in addition to providing base information, has practice questions and answers for students to utilize when reviewing concepts.

Older versions of the text may be used and I also provide a pdf version of the course text on our Canvas page. The digital pdf of the text is helpful when searching for certain topics (the Control F function is great!)

There is a copy of the course text available on hold at the University Library for students that wish to access it in hardcopy without purchasing.



## Evaluation Structure

Our course evaluation and grade structure is divided into several broad categories: Exams, Course Paper, Homework, and Quizzes.

Exams	400 points
Paper	100 points
Homework	150 points
Quizzes	150 points

See course schedule for exam and homework due dates. Canvas also reports due dates under the Assignments Tab.

The Grading Scale is as follows:

- A: 720 – 800 points
- B: 640 - 719
- C: 560 - 639
- D: 480 - 559
- F: 479 and below

**It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades posted on Canvas. Contact me (not TA) with grade discrepancies or questions. Grading questions are to be handled within one week of grade posting.**

## Exams

There are five exams in this course, but only the top four exam grades are included in your grade! See the course schedule for dates.

## Paper

You have the opportunity to communicate the economic concepts learned in class by selecting a small agribusiness of your choice and completing our course paper. See the course paper assignment and rubric for more information.

## Homework

There are eight homework assignments in our class, see our course schedule for due dates. All homeworks are due by 11:59pm of the due date. Students can turn assignments in online or in hardcopy.

## Quizzes

Quizzes occur throughout the semester at "random" when we complete a concept. Your lowest 5 quiz scores will be dropped from your grade calculation. A total of 200 quiz points will be available.

# Academic Integrity

When students are stressed, they sometimes make decisions they otherwise would not. These decisions sometimes include copying a friend's homework, copying answers from the internet, using a cheat sheet on an exam, etc. Your personal and academic integrity is important. If you find yourself in a situation where you are tempted to cheat or violate our University's academic policy, I encourage you to talk to me. I am willing to look for assignment extensions or replacements to help you avoid violating your own moral code as well as our classroom academic integrity.

See the "Academic Integrity Policy" section of the syllabus attachment posted on course Canvas page.

# Accomodations

The University has a formal system to document and ensure students have accommodations as needed. You are also welcome to meet with me and discuss accommodations that may help you meet our course objectives. Many students benefit from extended time on assessments, printed and digital copies of materials, quiet exam space, etc. I am more than willing to work with you to provide these accommodations as I can.

Let me know what accommodations you believe would help you succeed in our course on our "Getting to Know You" assignment. As we progress through the semester, feel free to let me know any issues you are facing. Contact Student Disability Services (<http://sds.okstate.edu>) if you wish to formalize the process.

**Additional information provided by the Provosts' office can be found in the syllabus attachment document.**

**Loyal & True  
Be honest.  
Be you.**



**Dr. Hannah E. Shear**

hshear@okstate.edu

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# ***A note from the professor:***



Welcome to our class! As we spend the semester together, studying agricultural economics, I hope you will join me in creating an inclusive and supportive classroom environment. I strive to make our classroom a safe and welcoming place for all students. In our classroom, diversity of background, race, gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, religion, and abilities, is valued and respected.

As you will come to learn, economics is a social science that looks at how people make decisions. In our studies and exploration of the theory, you may find that you disagree with a particular approach, concept, or assumption. Our classroom is a safe place to voice your thoughts in a respectful and considerate manner. Your thoughts are most welcome and help us better the field of economics and our community. If you do not wish to share your thoughts in class, please know that I will be happy to meet with you at another time.

If there are ways you believe I can better manage our classroom environment to be more inclusive and welcoming, please let me know. I look forward to getting to know each of you!

## **You can find me in Agriculture Hall, Office 420**

Office hours may sound intimidating, but please know "Office Hours" is just time that I set aside to ensure you have a set and consistent time to meet with me. Sometimes my office hours do not work for you, and in that case, please schedule a meeting using my Calendly link (see QR code or link to the right).

**Mondays & Wednesdays 9am-11am  
Tuesday & Thursday 11am - Noon**



**Scan QR code with smart phone or [click here](#).**

**NEED TO MEET?**