



**AREC 202: AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS
SYLLABUS**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Rebecca Hill

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30 or by appointment; Office: Clark B-305

TA: Farjana Ahmed, Farjana.Ahmed@Colostate.Edu

Farjana office hour: 3 pm – 4pm Mondays and Wednesdays, Clark B-302

Main Class Webpage: on Canvas.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Need technical assistance with your course? Try the following:

- Visit the [Canvas Student Resources](#) for guides and videos.
- Visit [Central I.T. Technical Support Helpdesk](#) for technical support. Or Call 970-491-7276.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to decision-making by consumers, firms, and government, and resulting allocation of resources through markets.

Note that this course satisfies objectives for area C (Social/Behavioral Sciences) of Academic Core category III (Foundations and Perspectives).

Note also that you cannot get credit for both AREC 202 and ECON 202.

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

MATH 117 (can be taken simultaneously)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics has identified learning outcomes that each successful graduate will exhibit. AREC 202 contributes to the following learning outcomes:

TECHNICAL COMPETENCE: GRADUATES WILL DEMONSTRATE TECHNICAL COMPETENCY INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO APPROPRIATELY USE ECONOMIC THEORY IN FORMULATING ANALYTICAL PROBLEMS, IDENTIFYING AND GATHERING APPROPRIATE DATA, AND EMPLOYING APPROPRIATE ECONOMIC METHODS TO ANALYZE THOSE PROBLEMS, UTILIZING APPROPRIATE AVAILABLE COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY.

PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS: GRADUATES WILL DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO SOLVE REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS BEYOND THE CONTEXT OF THE CLASSROOM. STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY A PROBLEM AND ITS SCOPE, EVALUATE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM, FORMULATE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS, AND SELECT THE SOLUTION(S) MOST CONSISTENT WITH A STATED OBJECTIVE.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: GRADUATES WILL DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY IN ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN TERMS OF SUBSTANCE, ORGANIZATION, MECHANICS, DOCUMENTATION, AND SYNTHESIS. PROFICIENT STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO CLEARLY COMMUNICATE FINDINGS, CRITICALLY AND ANALYTICALLY, AT A PROFESSIONAL LEVEL WITHIN THEIR CHOSEN CAREER.

COURSE GOALS

By the end of the semester you should be able to

- understand the core principles of microeconomics and apply them to human behavior in daily situations (Problem-Solving Skills Learning Outcome)
- understand the economic methodology and its limitations (Technical Competence Learning Outcome)
- comprehend the virtues and limitations of markets and allocations through prices (Technical Competence Learning Outcome)
- appreciate the role of benefits and costs in decision-making processes of individuals and societies (Problem-Solving Skills Learning Outcome)
- Realize that most decisions in life are not “either-or” decisions (Problem-Solving Skills Learning Outcome)
- Practice communicating and connecting economic concepts through writing (Communication Skills Learning Objective)

REQUIRED TEXTS

Microeconomics, 6th edition, Robert H. Frank, Ben S. Bernanke, Kare Antonovics and Ori Heffetz, McGraw Hill. This book is available electronically on the Canvas class website.

OTHER REQUIRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Students are required to purchase an iClicker remote for in-class participation (if you do not have one already). iClicker is a response system that allows you to respond to questions I pose during class; you will be graded on that feedback. In order to receive this credit, you will need to register your iClicker remote online by Tuesday, January 23rd. To do this, you need to log in in a Canvas course (the instructions are here: <http://clicker.colostate.edu/>). The remote ID is the number found on the back of your iClicker remote. iClicker will be used every day in class, and you are responsible for bringing your remote daily.

Students are also required to enroll in something called Moblab, where we will conduct several economic experiments. The student fee will be \$12. Details will follow.

COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES

Starting in week 2, for each chapter PowerPoint slides will be posted on Canvas. These will not be complete slides, they will have pieces missing that you need to fill out during lecture. If you miss class it is your responsibility to get the notes you need from classmates or office hours. I strongly recommend that you print out or download these PowerPoint slides to your computer before each class period, so that you do not have to copy everything from the slides and rather take notes on what is being said in class.

GRADING

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

- a) 10 best weekly homework assignments 50 points
- b) Quizzes 50 points
- c) 10 best weekly pre-chapter question sets 50 points
- d) 70% weekly iClicker grades 30 points
- e) Writing Assignment 100 points
- f) Midterm Exam 60 points
- g) Final Exam 60 points
- Total Amount: 400 points

Cutoff Points:

A/A+: 372 (93%)	A-: 360 (90%)	
B+: 344 (86%)	B: 332 (83%)	B-: 320 (80%)
C+: 304 (76%)	C: 280 (70%)	D: 240 (60%)
F: Below 240 points (<60%)		

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Per-chapter Questions

There will be pre-chapter questions that you will be required to complete before class on Tuesday. Pre-chapter questions are a few simple and brief questions about an assigned reading for the upcoming week. There will be 13 pre-chapter question sets, 3 of which will not count towards your final grade as you can drop your three worst scores.

Quizzes

There will be 2 paper quizzes during the course, See course schedule at end of syllabus for quiz dates. Each quiz is worth 25 points.

Homework

Every week (except for the week of the midterm exam) I will post homework assignments on the Canvas class webpage. There will be a total of 13 graded HW assignments, 3 of which will not count towards your final grade, as you can drop your worst 3 scores. Each assignment has to be answered on Canvas and is usually due on Sunday nights, 11:45 p.m., except for the HW assignments on Wednesdays that are supposed to prepare you for online experiments the following (Thurs)day.

Daily iClicker

Every day I will sprinkle several multiple-choice questions into my class presentation, some planned, some spontaneous, to be answered by you with the iClicker system. I understand that the unexpected happens so as long as you are present and respond to focus questions at least 70% of time you will receive full credit on your iclicker grade.

Writing Assignment: Come up with a microeconomic question, from a naturalist perspective. Your question must be interesting and your answer must be plausible. A more detailed description of the Writing Assignment plus grading criteria will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class later this semester.

- Part 1: By March 20th, you need to have determined what your question is. You must hand in your question in class.
- Part 2: By May 3rd, you need to hand in both the question and your answer.

MAKE UP POLICY

Missed homework assignments, quizzes, pre-chapter question sets and exams cannot be made up. If you will miss class for an excused absence you must let me know well in advance so we can arrange for you to make-up the assignment before you leave. The two parts of the Writing Assignment have to be turned in on time; a delay of 0-24 hours will result in a 10% point deduction, a delay of 24-48 hours will result in a 20% point deduction, and so on.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policies and Guiding Principles as found in the General Catalog and the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. Violations of the university's academic integrity standards include, but are not limited to:

- Cheating—includes using unauthorized sources of information and providing or receiving unauthorized assistance on any form of academic work or engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by the faculty member.
- Plagiarism—includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one's own without proper acknowledgment.
- Unauthorized Possession or Disposition of Academic Materials—includes the unauthorized selling or purchasing of examinations or other academic work; stealing another student's work; unauthorized entry to or use of material in a computer file; and using information from or possessing exams that an instructor did not authorize for release to students.
- Falsification—includes any untruth, either verbal or written, in one's academic work.
- Facilitation—includes knowingly assisting another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

Further information about Academic Integrity is available at CSU's [Practicing Academic Integrity](#).

UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING

I am committed to the principle of universal learning. This means that our classroom, our virtual spaces, our practices, and our interactions be as inclusive as possible. Mutual respect, civility, and the ability to listen and observe others carefully are crucial to universal learning.

If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class, please contact me to discuss your individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation. A verifying memo from [Resources for Disabled Students](#) may be required before any accommodation is provided.

COPYRIGHTED COURSE MATERIALS

Please do not share material from this course in online, print, or other media. Course material is the property of the instructor who developed the course. Materials authored by third parties and used in the course are also subject to copyright protections. Posting course materials on external sites (commercial or not) violates both copyright law and the CSU Student Conduct Code. Students who share course content without the instructor's express permission, including with online sites that post materials to sell to other students, could face appropriate disciplinary or legal action.

CELL PHONES, INTERNET AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Please turn your smartphones and similar devices off before class! **ABSOLUTELY NO TEXTING (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, you name it) DURING CLASS!** If you use a laptop for taking notes, please do not distract yourself and others by doing things that are unrelated to class.

In general, be respectful to your peers, to your instructor and to whoever is financing your studies! (and if you think you can multitask by listening to me and simultaneously use your smartphone, you might want to read this recent study in the journal *Social Psychology*: 45/6: "The Mere Presence of a Cell Phone May be Distracting: Implications for Attention and Task Performance").

Principles of Community: The Principles of Community support the Colorado State University mission and vision of access, research, teaching, service and engagement. A collaborative, and vibrant community is a foundation for learning, critical inquiry, and discovery. Therefore, each member of the CSU community has a responsibility to uphold these principles when engaging with one another and acting on behalf of the University.

- **Inclusion:** We create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community, including their various identities, skills, ideas, talents, and contributions.
- **Integrity:** We are accountable for our actions and will act ethically and honestly in all our interactions.
- **Respect:** We honor the inherent dignity of all people within an environment where we are committed to freedom of expression, critical discourse, and the advancement of knowledge.
- **Service:** We are responsible, individually and collectively, to give of our time, talents, and resources to promote the well-being of each other and the development of our local, regional, and global communities.
- **Social Justice:** We have the right to be treated and the responsibility to treat others with fairness and equity, the duty to challenge prejudice, and to uphold the laws, policies and procedures that promote justice in all respects.

Mental Health statement: CSU is a community that cares for you. If you are struggling with drugs or alcohol and/or experiencing depression, anxiety, overwhelming stress or thoughts of hurting yourself or others please know there is help available. Counseling Services has trained professionals who can help. Contact 970.491.6053 or go to <http://health.colostate.edu>. If you are concerned about a friend or peer, tell someone at by calling 970.491.1350 to discuss your concerns with a professional who can discreetly connect the distressed individual with the proper resources

(<http://supportandsafety.colostate.edu/tellsomeone>). Rams take care of Rams. Reach out and ask for help if you or someone you know is having a difficult time.

Sexual Assault and Violence Elimination: CSU's Student Sexual Harassment and Violence policy, following national guidance from the Office of Civil Rights, requires that professors follow CSU policy as a "mandatory reporter" of any personal disclosure of sexual harassment, abuse, and/or violence related experiences or incidents shared with the professor in person, via email, and/or in classroom papers or homework exercises. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of personal relational abuse, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. While professors are often able to help students locate appropriate channels of assistance on campus (e.g., see the CSU Health Network link below), disclosure by the student to the professor requires that the professor inform appropriate CSU channels to help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, even if the student requests that the disclosure not be shared. For counseling support and assistance, please see The CSU HEALTH NETWORK, which includes a variety of counseling services that can be accessed at: <http://www.health.colostate.edu/>. And, The Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential resource for students that does not have a reporting requirement and that can be of great help to students who have experienced sexual assault. The web address is <http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support>.

Course Outline.

	Tuesday (due 30 minutes before class)	Thursday	Sunday online (HW is due 11:45 p.m.)	Textbook Chapters (tentative)
Week 1 (1/16 and 1/18)				1
Week 2 (1/23 and 1/25)	Pre-Chapter Questions 1			2
Week 3 (1/30 and 2/1)	Pre-Chapter Questions 2		HW Set 1	3
Week 4 (2/6 and 2/8)	Pre-Chapter Questions 3	Market game 1* (during regular class time)	HW Set 2 (due on Wednesday), HW Set 3 (due on Sunday)	3
Week 5 (2/13 and 2/15)	Pre-Chapter Questions 4	Quiz 1	HW Set 4	4
Week 6 (2/20 and 2/22)	Pre-Chapter Questions 5		HW Set 5	5
Week 7 (2/27 and 3/1)	Pre-Chapter Questions 6		HW Set 6	6
Week 8 (3/6 and 3/8)	Review Session	Midterm Exam		
Spring Break (3/13 and 3/15)	--	--	--	--
Week 9 (3/20 and 3/22)	Pre-Chapter Questions 7, 1 st Part of Writing Assignment due		HW Set 7	7
Week 10 (3/27 and 3/29)	Pre-Chapter Questions 8		HW Set 8	8
Week 11 (4/3 and 4/5)	Pre-Chapter Questions 9		HW Set 9	10
Week 12 (4/10 and 4/12)	Pre-Chapter Questions 10	Quiz 2	HW Set 10	13
Week 13 (4/17 and 4/19)	Pre-Chapter Questions 11	Market game 2* (during regular class time)	HW Set 11 (Parts of it are due on Wednesday!)	14
Week 14 (4/24 and 4/26)	Pre-Chapter Questions 12		HW Set 12	14
Week 15 (5/1 and 5/3)	Pre-Chapter Questions 13,	Writing Assignment due	HW Set 13	11
Finals Week	Monday, May 7th, 6:20-8:20 pm			

*During market games class will not take place in the classroom but over the internet.

Welcome to **AREC 202**

The online homework and eBook for AREC 202 (Frank: Principles of Microeconomics/6th Edition) will be available through the CSU Bookstore's Inclusive Access Program.

Note: All students registered in AREC 202 have access to the online homework and eBook described here. You are automatically enrolled in this program and must Opt Out if you want to purchase the access on your own. Please follow these instructions carefully.

ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS and BILLING INFORMATION for STUDENTS:

- Access the homework and eBook for free until the Add/Drop date by clicking on the link on the Modules page of Canvas. After the Add/Drop date, your student account will be charged \$93.25 for the access.

Dropping the course

- If you drop the course *prior to* the Add/Drop deadline, you will not be billed.
- If you drop the course *after* the Add/Drop deadline, you will have **5 days** to notify Kurt Kaiser (email below) for a refund.

Opting Out of Inclusive Access

- If you choose to purchase full access on your own, you must opt out by sending an email to: bookstore_optout@mail.colostate.edu
 - Reference "**AREC 202 opt out**" in the subject line
 - Include name, student number and section number in the body of the email.
 - This will ensure you are not charged for the access.
- The materials are REQUIRED, so you must purchase on your own if you Opt Out.

Contact kurt.kaiser@colostate.edu if you have questions or concerns. If you Opt Out and, after changing your mind, want to opt back in, please email me and I will get you access.

Regards

Kurt Kaiser

The Inclusive Access Team

CSU Bookstore

Work Sheet for Grades

	Pre-Chapter Questions	HW
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
Total (incl. lowest grades)		

Lowest grade		
Second-lowest grade		
Third-lowest grade		
Total (w/o lowest grades)		

	Your Points	Points possible
Total Pre-Chapter		
Quiz 1		
Quiz 2		
Total HW		
Total iClicker		
Writing Assignment, First Part		25
Writing Assignment, Final Part		75
Midterm Exam		60
Final Exam		60

Semester Points		
Percentage		
Letter Grade		