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**AREC 202: AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS  
SECTION 3 SYLLABUS**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Stephan Kroll

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Email: [Stephan.Kroll@colostate.edu](mailto:Stephan.Kroll@colostate.edu)

Office Hours: TTh, 2:15-3:15

TA: Aaron Hrozencik, [aaronhroz@gmail.com](mailto:aaronhroz@gmail.com)

Aaron's office hours: Th 5-6, Clark B-323

Main Class Webpage: [www.aplia.com](http://www.aplia.com) (see Aplia registration instructions on the last page of this syllabus). We will use Canvas only occasionally (for example, for the iClicker registration).

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

Aplia Help Desk → <http://www.aplia.com/#supportMain>

**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)

**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,
- understand the economic methodology and its limitations,
- comprehend the virtues and limitations of markets and allocations through prices,
- appreciate the role of benefits and costs in decision-making processes of individuals and societies, and
- realize that most decisions in life are not “either-or” decisions.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Microeconomics, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, Worth. You can buy a hardcopy of it, but this book is also available electronically on the Aplia class website (see below).

**OTHER REQUIRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

Students are also required to enroll in the Aplia website for this course. Aplia (or rather its parent company Cengage) has to be paid by September 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm.

Students are also 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, August 30. 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.

### **COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES**

Lectures will be recorded and videos will be posted on Aplia. For each chapter, pre-chapter and post-chapter PowerPoint slides will be posted on Aplia. Pre-chapter slides have only basic information and will be posted before a chapter; post-chapter slides have everything and will be posted after a chapter is concluded. I strongly recommend that you look at/download the pre-chapter slides before class 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) 10 best weekly quizzes	50 points
c) 10 best weekly focus question sets	50 points
d) 70% best weekly iClicker grades	30 points
e) Writing Assignment Part I	25 points
f) Final Writing Assignment	75 points
g) Midterm Exam	60 points
h) Final Exam	<u>60 points</u>
Total Amount:	400 points

On Aplia I will keep you posted about your up-to-date grades (starting in about the third or fourth week of the semester).

### **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**

#### **Focus Questions**

There will be focus questions almost every Tuesday. Focus questions are a few simple and brief questions about an assigned reading for the upcoming week. There will be 13 focus question sets, 3 of which will not count towards your final grade.

### **Quizzes**

There will be a paper quiz almost every week, usually on Thursdays. Quizzes will consist of 9 or 10 multiple-choice questions. There will be 13 quizzes, 3 of which will not count towards your final grade.

### **Aplia Homework**

Every week (except for the week of the midterm exam) I will post homework assignments on the Aplia class webpage. There will be a total of 13 graded Aplia HW assignments, 3 of which will not count towards your final grade. Each assignment has to be answered on Aplia and is usually due on Friday 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. Only your 70% best count towards your final grade.

### **Writing Assignment**

Pair up with another student. Please find an interesting recent (published between August 1 and September 30, 2016) newspaper article (paper or online) about a market. Use the microeconomic tools and concepts you have learned in this class to analyze how and why the market has changed recently.

By Tuesday, November 8 2016 (Election Day!), you have to have found an article, which you need to hand in (in class) together with a bulleted outline on how you will analyze “your” market. By December 8 (last day of class) you need to hand in the entire Writing Assignment.

A more detailed description of the Writing Assignment plus template for the outline and grading criteria will be posted on the Aplia webpage later this semester.

### **MAKE UP POLICY**

Missed homework assignments, quizzes, focus questions and exams cannot be made up. 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. If you text, check your e-mail, surf the web, chat, chase Pokémon or if there is any other disruption/distraction due to electronic devices, then **five points** will be deducted from your total semester point score for each incident. And I mean it.

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")

Almost each class I will schedule three-to-five-minute "social media breaks" in the middle of class.

**Course Outline.**

	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday online (Aplia HW is due 11:45 p.m.)	Textbook Chapters (tentative)
Week 1 (8/23 and 8/25)				Intro, 1
Week 2 (8/30 and 9/1)	Focus Questions 1	Quiz 1	Practice Aplia Set	9, 2
Week 3 (9/6 and 9/8)	Focus Questions 2	Quiz 2	Aplia Set 1	2, 3
Week 4 (9/13 and 9/15)	Focus Questions 3	Market game 1* (during regular class time; plus an encore at 8 pm)	Aplia Set 2 (due on Wednesday), Aplia Set 3 (due on Friday)	3
Week 5 (9/20 and 9/22)	Focus Questions 4	Quiz 3	Aplia Set 4	4
Week 6 (9/27 and 9/29)	Focus Questions 5	Quiz 4	Aplia Set 5	5
Week 7 (10/4 and 10/6)	Focus Questions 6	Quiz 5	Aplia Set 6	6
Week 8 (10/11 and 10/13)	Focus Questions 7, Quiz 6	Midterm Exam		7
Week 9 (10/18 and 10/20)	Focus Questions 8	Quiz 7	Aplia Set 7	7
Week 10 (10/25 and 10/27)	Focus Questions 9	Quiz 8	Aplia Set 8	10
Week 11 (11/1 and 11/3)	Focus Questions 10	Quiz 9	Aplia Set 9	11
Week 12 (11/8 and 11/10)	Focus Questions 11, 1 <sup>st</sup> Part of Writing Assignment due	Quiz 10	Aplia Set 10	12
Week 13 (11/15 and 11/17)	Quiz 11	Market game 2* (during regular class time; plus an encore at 8 pm)	Aplia Set 11 (Parts of it are due on Wednesday!)	13
Thanksgiving Break (11/22 and 11/24)	--	--	--	
Week 14 (11/29 and 12/1)	Focus Questions 12	Quiz 12	Aplia Set 12	17
Week 15 (12/6 and 12/8)	Focus Questions 13, Quiz 13	Writing Assignment due	Aplia Set 13	16
Finals Week	Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6:20-8:20pm (really)			

\*September 15, November 17: Class will not take place in the classroom but over the internet: Either during the regular class time or at 8 pm the same day.

## How to access your Aplia course

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AREC 202, Sections 3 and 801, Fall 2016

**Instructor:** Stephan Kroll

**Start Date:** 08/22/2016

### What is Aplia?

In just 10 years, more than one billion answers have been submitted through Aplia, the premier online assignment solution. Millions of students use Aplia to better prepare for class and for their exams. Join them today!

### Registration

1. Connect to <http://login.cengagebrain.com/course/V249-ETA7-MQP8>
2. Follow the prompts to register for your Aplia course.

### Payment

After registering for your course, you will need to pay for access using one of the options below:

**Online:** You can pay online using a credit or debit card, or PayPal.

**Bookstore:** You may be able to purchase access to Aplia at your bookstore. Check with the bookstore to find out what they offer for your course.

**Free Trial:** Your course enrollment includes a free trial period of up to three weeks. After the free trial ends you will be required to pay for access.

Please note: At the end of the free trial period, your course access will be suspended until your payment has been made. All your scores and course activity will be saved and will be available to you after you pay for access.

If you already registered an access code or bought Aplia online, the course key to register for this course is: **V249-ETA7-MQP8**

### System Check

To check whether your computer meets the requirements for using Aplia, go to <http://www.aplia.com/support/sysreq.jsp>

**Work Sheet for Grades**

	<b>Aplia Set</b>	<b>Focus Questions</b>	<b>Quiz</b>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
<b>Total</b> (incl. lowest grades)			

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

	<b>Your Points</b>	<b>Points possible</b>
Total Aplia		
Total FQ		
Total Quiz		
Total iClicker		
Writing Assignment, First Part		25
Writing Assignment, Final Part		75
Midterm Exam		60
Final Exam		60

<b>Semester Points</b>		
<b>Percentage</b>		
<b>Letter Grade</b>		