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

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Stephan Kroll

Phone: 970-491-0887

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

Office Hours: TBD

TA: Ming Wang (email: [ming.wang@colostate.edu](mailto:ming.wang@colostate.edu))

TA's office hours: TBD

Main Class Webpages: on Canvas and Connect, plus experiments on Moblab.

**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.
- Technical help with Connect: Customer Experience Team 800.331.5094 or visit <https://mhedu.force.com/CXG/s/> (Monday-Thursday • 24 Hours | Friday • 12 AM-7 PM | Saturday • 8AM-6PM | Sunday • 10AM-10PM Mountain Time)
- Technical help with Moblab email [support@moblab.com](mailto:support@moblab.com).

**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

- apply the core principles of microeconomics to human behavior in daily situations,
- explain the economic methodology and its limitations,
- discuss 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 (ONLINE) TEXT**

Microeconomics, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Robert H. Frank, Ben S. Bernanke, Kare Antonovics and Ori Heffetz, McGraw Hill. This book is available electronically on the Connect class website. See page 7.

**OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

Students will also participate in several economic experiments on something called Moblab, which they automatically purchase with the purchase of Inclusive Access. See the pdf-file “Guide for Students” on how to register for Moblab on Canvas.

**COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES**

Lectures are pre-recorded, and recordings will be posted on Canvas. Also, for each chapter pre-chapter and post-chapter PowerPoint slides will be posted on Canvas as well. Pre-chapter slides have many blanks and will be posted before we cover a chapter; post-chapter slides are completely filled out and will be posted after a chapter is concluded. I strongly recommend that you look at/download/print the pre-chapter slides before watching the lectures so that you do not have to copy everything from the slides and rather take notes on what is being said in the recordings.

During regular class times I will meet most weeks with groups of students for 10-15 minutes on Zoom. Please come prepared with questions (about the course material) to these meetings. I will ask random students questions as well.

<b>If your name ends with</b>	<b>then your group meets at</b>
A-B	Tuesday, 11:05-11:20
C-F	Tuesday, 11:30-11:45
G-J	Tuesday, 11:55-12:10
K-Me	Thursday, 11:05-11:20
Mh-R	Thursday, 11:30-11:45
S-Z	Thursday, 11:55-12:10

**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 pre-chapter question sets	50 points
d) Participation in weekly meetings and experiments	10 points
e) Writing Assignment Part I	15 points
f) Writing Assignment Part II	25 points
g) Final Writing Assignment	60 points
h) Midterm Exam	60 points
i) Final Exam	<u>60 points</u>
Total Amount:	380 points

**Cutoff Points:**

A/A+: 353 (93%)	A-: 342 (90%)	
B+: 327 (86%)	B: 315 (83%)	B-: 304 (80%)
C+: 289 (76%)	C: 266 (70%)	D: 228 (60%)
F: Below 228 points (<60%)		

## **ASSIGNMENT DETAILS**

### **Per-chapter Questions (on Connect)**

Almost every week there will be pre-chapter questions on Connect with a Tuesday, 10:59 am, deadline. Pre-chapter questions are multiple-choice questions for a chapter we cover in that week. There will be 13 pre-chapter question sets, 3 of which will not count towards your final grade.

### **Quizzes (on Canvas)**

There will be a quiz on Canvas almost every week. 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. You will have fifteen minutes to finish your quiz once you have started it. The due dates for quizzes is Sunday, 11:59 pm. You can work on quizzes after the deadline as practice, but since the correct answers are available immediately after the deadline, late quizzes will automatically be graded 0.

### **Homework (usually on Connect)**

Most weeks I will post homework assignments on either the Canvas or the Connect class webpage. There will be a total of 13 graded HW assignments, 3 of which will not count towards your final grade. Each assignment has to be answered online and is usually due on Sunday night, 11:59 p.m., except for the HW assignments on Wednesdays that are supposed to prepare you for online experiments the following (Thurs)day.

### **Participation during Class Time**

Even though the class is mostly asynchronous, I expect students almost each week to “attend class” for 15 minutes at the dedicated time of their group.

### **Writing Assignment**

Pair up with another student in this section of AREC 202. Please find an interesting recent (published between August 24 and September 30, 2020) **newspaper** article (paper or online) about an **agricultural or food** market. Use the microeconomic tools and concepts you have learned in this class to analyze how and why the market has changed recently.

By Sunday, October 4, you have to have found an article, which you need to post on Canvas together a brief description of the market (“market for blueberries) and one sentence about what is the puzzling and/or interesting market behavior you are trying to analyze. By Sunday, November 15, your group needs to post a bulleted outline on how you will analyze “your” market. By Thursday, December 17, you need to post the entire Writing Assignment.

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

### **Exams**

The midterm exam (75 minutes) is in Week 9, the final exam (120 minutes) is in finals week and both will be on Canvas. More details about the exams will be announced on Canvas.

### **MAKE UP POLICY**

Missed homework assignments, quizzes, and pre-chapter question sets cannot be made up (but remember that only 10 of each count). Exams can also not be made up.

The three parts of the WA 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 [Academic Integrity](#) site.

In particular, you are not allowed to communicate with others during exams and quizzes, which are also closed-book.

## 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 the [Student Disability Center](#) (formerly 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.

**Important information for Students: All students should fill out a student-specific symptom checker each day before coming to class (<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/daily-symptom-checker/>).** In addition, please utilize the symptom checker to report symptoms, if you have a

positive test, or exposed to a known COVID contact. If you know or believe you have been exposed or are symptomatic, it is important for the health of yourself and others that you report it through this checker. You will not be in trouble or penalized in any way for reporting. If you report symptoms or a positive test, you will receive immediate instructions on what to do and CSU's Public Health Office will be notified. Once notified, that office will contact you and most likely conduct contact tracing, initiate any necessary public health requirements and/or recommendations and notify you if you need to take any steps. For the latest information about the University's response, please visit the **CSU COVID-19 site** (<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/>).

### **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.

### **Need Help?**

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.

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://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://wgac.colostate.edu/support/>.

Welcome to **AREC 202**

The online homework and eBook for AREC 202 (Frank: Principles of Microeconomics/7<sup>th</sup> 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 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](mailto: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. **(note from instructor: if you take this class I cannot really think of any reason why you want to opt out)**

Contact [kurt.kaiser@colostate.edu](mailto: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**

**Course Outline, AREC 202, Section 3 and 801.**

	<b>Tuesday</b> (due at 11am)	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Sunday</b> (Quizzes and HW are usually due at 11:59 p.m.)	<b>Textbook Chapters</b>
Week 1 (Mon, 8/24 – Sun, 8/30)		Videos Week 1		1: Thinking like an Economist
Week 2 (8/31 – 9/6)	Pre-Chapter Questions 1	Videos Week 2	Quiz 1	2: Comparative Advantage
Week 3 (9/7 – 9/13)	Pre-Chapter Questions 2 HW Set 1 (due on Wednesday)	Market game 1*  Videos Week 3	HW Set 2 (due on Sunday)	3: Demand
Week 4 (9/14 – 9/20)	Pre-Chapter Questions 3	Videos Week 4	Quiz 2, HW Set 3	3: Supply, Equilibrium, Efficiency
Week 5 (9/21 – 9/27)	Pre-Chapter Questions 4	Videos Week 5	Quiz 3, HW Set 4	4: Elasticity
Week 6 (9/28 – 10/4)	Pre-Chapter Questions 5	Videos Week 6	Quiz 4, HW Set 5 <b>1<sup>st</sup> part of WA due</b>	5: Demand in more detail
Week 7 (10/5 – 10/11)	Pre-Chapter Questions 6	Videos Week 7	Quiz 5, HW Set 6	6: Competitive Supply: Inputs, costs
Week 8 (10/12 – 10/18)	Pre-Chapter Questions 7	Videos Week 8	Quiz 6, HW Set 7	6: Comp. Supply: Perfect Competition
Week 9 (10/19 – 10/25)	Pre-Chapter Questions 8, Quiz 7	Videos Week 9	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
Week 10 (10/26 – 11/1)	Pre-Chapter Questions 9	Videos Week 10	Quiz 8, HW Set 8	7: Efficiency
Week 11 (11/2 – 11/8)	Pre-Chapter Questions 10	Videos Week 11	Quiz 9, HW Set 9	8: Other Market Forms
Week 12 (11/9 – 11/15)	Pre-Chapter Questions 11	Videos Week 12	Quiz 10, <b>2<sup>nd</sup> part of WA due</b>	11: Environmental Economics
Week 13 (11/16 – 11/22)	HW Set 10 (due on Wednesday)	Market game 2*  Videos Week 13	Quiz 11, HW Set 11	11: Env. Econ.
Thanksgiving Break (11/23 – 11/29)	--	--	--	
Week 14 (11/30 – 12/6)	Pre-Chapter Questions 12	Videos Week 14	Quiz 12, HW Set 12	14: Public Goods + Taxation
Week 15 (12/7 – 12/13)	Pre-Chapter Questions 13	Videos Week 15	Quiz 13, HW Set 13	12: Economics of Information
Finals Week	<b>Final Exam</b>	Thursday, Dec. 17, 11:59pm: <b>Writing Assignment, part 3, due</b>		

\* Market Games on Moblab: Thursday, 11 am or 3:30 pm or 9 pm

**Work Sheet for Grades**

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

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

	<b>Your Points</b>	<b>Points possible</b>
Total Pre-Chapter		
Total Quiz		
Total HW		
Participation/attendance during regular class time		10
Writing Assignment, Part 1		15
Writing Assignment, Part 2		25
Writing Assignment, Part 3		60
Midterm Exam		60
Final Exam		60

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

An excel sheet is posted on Canvas, with which you calculate your current grade.