



**AREC 202: AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS
SECTION 801 SYLLABUS**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Co-Instructor: Stephan Kroll

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Co-Instructor: Ming Wang

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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.

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, 7th 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. We 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.

GRADING

As a student enrolled in this course, one of your responsibilities is to submit course work by the due dates listed in the Course Schedule. With that said, we take our role as your instructors very seriously, and, in fact, we care about how well you do in this course and that you have a satisfying, rewarding experience.

To that end, it is our commitment to you to respond individually to the work you submit in this class and to return your work in a timely manner. Pre-chapter questions, quizzes, homework assignments and exams will be graded automatically on Canvas as soon as they are finished or by the due date, and the different parts of the writing assignments will be graded within 2 weeks. (If, however, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading of your work takes longer than the times we have listed here, we will keep you informed of our progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as we can.)

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) Writing Assignment Part I 15 points
- e) Writing Assignment Part II 25 points
- f) Final Writing Assignment 60 points
- g) Midterm Exam 60 points
- h) Final Exam 60 points
- Total Amount: 370 points

Cutoff Points:

A/A+: 344 (93%)	A-: 333 (90%)	
B+: 318 (86%)	B: 307 (83%)	B-: 296 (80%)
C+: 281 (76%)	C: 259 (70%)	D: 222 (60%)
F: Below 222 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.

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 (say, “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

We are 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 us 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.

SYSTEM, MULTIMEDIA, AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

Having trouble with the multimedia in this course? See the solutions below. Also, it is highly recommended that you access your course via a **high-speed Internet connection**.

- Problems with opening PDFs?
 - Download [Adobe Reader](#).
- Canvas acting funny?
 - Review Canvas guide for [Supported Browsers](#).
- YouTube videos not playing?
 - Download [Flash Player](#).
- Videos not opening or playing on your Mac?
 - Download [Windows Media Components for QuickTime](#).

- Still having issues:
 - Call the **CSU Help Desk at 970-491-7276** or [Email Help Desk Support](#)

You must have speakers installed and working properly on your computer before beginning the course. You need access to Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. If you do not have access to the Microsoft Office applications, you may use one of the following free resources that allow you to save your files with Microsoft Office file extensions (.doc, .docs, .ppt, .xls.):

- Google Apps for CSU—a free, outsourced communications suite endorsed by The University Technology Fee Advisory Board (UTFAB)
- [Office 365](#)—the full version of Microsoft Office free of charge for CSU students.

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.

SUGGESTED STUDY METHODS

Online education requires skills and habits that may be less essential in traditional courses. In order to be successful in your online course you will need:

- Space—Establish a comfortable and well-organized physical workplace.
- Time management skills—Set personal study and "classroom" time as you would do for a traditional course.
- Organization skills—Print out all class material (modules, PowerPoints, assignments, additional resources, and any work you generate) and keep everything in a single location. Maintain electronic backups of all class materials.
- Communication skills—Demonstrate a willingness to interact with your instructor and classmates through email, phone calls, discussion boards, and active participation in all class activities.
- Initiative—Seek help from your instructor and classmates, ask questions as they arise.
- Discipline—Pace yourself, complete all activities and assignments before the due date, follow through on all class requirements to completion.

The more closely you adhere to the recommendations above the greater your chances of having a successful semester and a rewarding online experience.

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/7th 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
 - 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 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. (all times are Mountain Time)

	Tuesday (due at 11am)	Thursday	Sunday (Quizzes and HW are usually due at 11:59 p.m.)	Textbook Chapters
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 1st part of WA due	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	Midterm Exam	
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, 2nd part of WA due	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	Final Exam	Thursday, Dec. 17, 11:59pm: Writing Assignment, part 3, due		

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

Work Sheet for Grades

	Pre-Chapter Questions	Quiz	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		
Total Quiz		
Total HW		
Writing Assignment, Part 1		15
Writing Assignment, Part 2		25
Writing Assignment, Part 3		60
Midterm Exam		60
Final Exam		60

Semester Points		
Percentage		
Letter Grade		

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