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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: Tuesday, 2-3; Friday 1:30-2:30. Office: Clark B-313

TA: Farjana Ahmed (email: [farjana.ahmed@colostate.edu](mailto:farjana.ahmed@colostate.edu); Skype: farjana.ahmed30)

TA's office hours: On campus: TR 12:30-1:30, Clark B-302.

On Skype: on Friday, by appointment.

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.
- Technical help with Connect: Customer Experience Team 800.331.5094 or visit [www.mhhe.com/support](http://www.mhhe.com/support) (Monday-Thursday • 24 Hours | Friday • 12 AM-7 PM | Saturday • 8AM-6PM | Sunday • 10AM-11PM Mountain Time)

**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 (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 Canvas class website. See page 6.

**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, August 28. 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 will also participate in several economic experiments on something called Moblab. More information about this is forthcoming. The cost is \$12.

**COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES**

Lectures will be recorded and videos will be posted on Canvas. Also, for each chapter, pre-chapter and post-chapter PowerPoint slides will be posted on Canvas. Pre-chapter slides have only basic information and will be posted before we cover 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 pre-chapter 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 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 with a deadline right before class almost every Tuesday. Pre-chapter questions are a few simple and brief online 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.

### **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.

### **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. Each assignment has to be answered on Canvas and is usually due on Sunday nights, 11:59 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 (so if you have 70% or more correct answers, you will get full credit for this part of your overall grade).

### **Writing Assignment**

Pair up with another student. Please find an interesting recent (published between August 1 and September 30, 2018) 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, November 11 2018, you have to have found an article, which you need to post on Canvas together with a bulleted outline on how you will analyze “your” market. By Wednesday, December 12, you need to post 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 Canvas webpage later this semester.

### **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 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 [Academic Integrity](#) site.

### 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.

### CELL PHONES, INTERNET AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Please turn your smartphones and similar devices off before class! **ABSOLUTELY NO TEXTING (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, 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 (do laptops even help? [No!](#)).

If you text, check your e-mail, surf the web, chat, 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 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’ll schedule three-to-five-minute “social media breaks” in the middle of class.

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

	Tuesday (due at 11am)	Thursday	Sunday online (HW is usually due at 11:59 p.m.)	Textbook Chapters (tentative)
Week 1 (8/21 and 8/23)				1: Thinking like an Economist
Week 2 (8/28 and 8/30)	Pre-Chapter Questions 1	Quiz 1		2: Comparative Advantage
Week 3 (9/4 and 9/6)	Pre-Chapter Questions 2	Quiz 2	HW Set 1	3: Supply and Demand
Week 4 (9/11 and 9/13)	Pre-Chapter Questions 3	Market game 1* (during regular class time; plus an encore at 8 pm)	HW Set 2 (due on Wednesday) HW Set 3 (due on Sunday)	3: Equilibrium
Week 5 (9/18 and 9/20)	Pre-Chapter Questions 4	Quiz 3	HW Set 4	4: Elasticity
Week 6 (9/25 and 9/27)	Pre-Chapter Questions 5	Quiz 4	HW Set 5	5: Demand in more detail
Week 7 (10/2 and 10/4)	Pre-Chapter Questions 6	Quiz 5	HW Set 6	6: Competitive Supply
Week 8 (10/9 and 10/11)	Pre-Chapter Questions 7	Quiz 6	HW Set 7	7: Efficiency
Week 9 (10/16 and 10/18)	Pre-Chapter Questions 8, Quiz 7	Midterm Exam		
Week 10 (10/23 and 10/25)	Pre-Chapter Questions 9	Quiz 8	HW Set 8	8: Other Market Forms
Week 11 (10/30 and 11/1)	Pre-Chapter Questions 10	Quiz 9	HW Set 9	10: Behavioral Economics
Week 12 (11/6 and 11/8)	Pre-Chapter Questions 11	Quiz 10	HW Set 10  1 <sup>st</sup> Part of Writing Assignment due	11: Environmental Economics
Week 13 (11/13 and 11/15)	Quiz 11	Market game 2* (during regular class time; plus an encore at 8 pm)	HW Set 11 (Parts of it are due on Wednesday!)	11: Env. Econ.
Thanksgiving Break (11/20 and 11/22)	--	--	--	
Week 14 (11/27 and 11/29)	Pre-Chapter Questions 12	Quiz 12	HW Set 12	14: Public Goods
Week 15 (12/4 and 12/6)	Pre-Chapter Questions 13, Quiz 13		HW Set 13	12: The Economics of Information
Finals Week	Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6:20-8:20pm	Wednesday, Dec. 12, 11:59pm: Writing Assignment, part 2, due		

\*Sept. 13, Nov. 15: 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.

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 \$95.25 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](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 a good 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**

**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		
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>		

Note that your grade posted on Canvas is deceiving since Canvas' gradebook does not recognize that only 10 quizzes, 10 HW assignments and 10 pre-chapter question sets count.

For that reason, an excel sheet is posted on Canvas, with which you calculate your "real" grade.