AREC 310 SYLLABUS

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Office Hours: By appointment, please email to set up a time

I am looking forward to working with you AREC 310 this semester. I want this course to be successful for all participants, so I ask that if you are struggling or need help in any way you ask early. To be successful in this course please review and follow along with the course schedule it will tell you when there something due.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Need technical assistance with Canvas? Try the following:

- Visit the Help Desk web page to troubleshoot common browser and Java issues.
- Call 970-491-7276.
- Email Help Desk Support.

REQUIRED PREREQUISITES

AREC/ECON 202 (PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS)

REQUIRED TEXTS AND OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

No text, reading materials will be provided electronically on the course website.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics has identified learning outcomes that each successful graduate will exhibit. AREC 310 contributes to the following learning outcomes.

**Professional Development:** Graduates will embody a general awareness of issues in agricultural and natural resource management and their implications in a larger societal context. Students will begin to develop a network of personal and professional connections which will foster an understanding of the culture surrounding professional expectations and conduct.

**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 OBJECTIVES:**
The primary objective is to foster development and understanding of key agricultural marketing issues and concerns, equip you with analytical skills that may be utilized to evaluate different marketing problems and programs from both the industry and firm perspective. This course will provide you with an understanding of economic concepts that will be employed for analyzing issues in agricultural marketing.

Specific course objectives include:
- Understand the functions performed and appreciate the importance and the complexity of the agricultural and food marketing system. (Problem-solving Skill and Professional Development Learning Objectives)
- Understand the basic workings of the futures markets for speculators and hedgers, and how these may be used by producers and firms to manage price risk. (Technical Competence Learning Objective)
- Be able to apply the basic economic concepts and analytical tools to understand the market forces that affect prices and to be able to use these tools to evaluate markets, prices, and current agricultural marketing issues. (Technical Competence and Problem-solving Skills Learning Objectives)
- Refine your ability to think critically and be able to justify your position with relevant economic logic by developing an analytical approach and decision-making framework for economic decisions made by producers & firms in the marketing system. (Communication Skills and Problem-solving Skills Learning Objectives)

**Academic Integrity:**
Academic misconduct (see examples below) undermines the educational experience at Colorado State University, lowers morale by engendering a skeptical attitude about the quality of education, and negatively affects the relationship between students and faculty/instructors. Faculty/Instructors are expected to use reasonably practical means of preventing and detecting academic misconduct. Any student found responsible for having engaged in academic misconduct will be subject to academic penalty and/or University disciplinary action. Students are encouraged to positively impact the academic integrity culture of CSU by reporting incidents of academic misconduct.

Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to):
1. **Cheating** – 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 instructor in the course syllabus or class presentation.
2. **Plagiarism** – Plagiarism includes the copying of language, structure, images, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one’s own without proper acknowledgment, and is related only to work submitted for credit. Also included is the failure to cite sources properly; sources must always be appropriately referenced, whether the source is printed, electronic or spoken.
3. **Unauthorized Possession or Disposition of Academic Materials** – Unauthorized possession or disposition of academic materials includes the unauthorized selling or purchasing of examinations, term papers, or other academic work; stealing another student’s work; and using information from or possessing exams that an instructor did not authorize for release to students.
4. **Falsification** – Falsification encompasses any untruth, either verbal or written, in one’s academic work.
5. **Facilitation of any act of Academic Misconduct** – Facilitation of any act of academic misconduct includes knowingly assisting another to commit an act of misconduct.
**GRADING**

**Exams:** Three examinations (including the final) will be offered. All three exams will be worth 150 points each. The lowest exam score will be dropped. Thus, no make-up exams will be given (If you are missing the exam for a university excused absence it is your responsibility to make arrangements with me at least 2 weeks before the exam). The exams will be worth 300 points in total.

**Homework/In-class assignments:** There will be several homework sets throughout the course that will include problem sets, computer based exercises, etc. The assignments will be worth approximately 150 points in total. Late assignments will not be accepted.

**Quizzes:** There will be several quizzes that will be given throughout the semester. The quizzes will be worth up to 100 points in total.

**Simulation Trading Project:** There will be a computer simulation trading project that will provide you with experience speculating in the futures market. Instructions concerning this project will be provided in a separate handout. The simulation trading project will be worth 150 points.

All students are required to sign up for a simulated web-based trading exercise. Cost is approximately $39 per student. More discussion about this exercise will be provided in the first few weeks of class.

**Discussion Assignments:** There will be several discussion-based assignments related to lectures. The discussions will be worth 50 points in total.

**Grade Scale:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
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(The instructor reserves the right to give pluses and minuses, but it will always favor the student, for example, a 88% could become an A- and a 76% may be given a C+).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulation Trading Project</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Assignments</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>750</strong></td>
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**ASSIGNMENT DETAILS**

**Discussions:** During the course there will be discussion prompts revolving around current materials. Each discussion you will need to respond to the prompt and comment on at least one other student’s response. When responding to other students responses please be respectful, disrespectful responses will not receive credit.

**Homework Assignments:** periodically during the course you will be required to complete problem sets related to that week’s topic.
Exams:

This course requires that all exams are proctored. Proctors are individuals who administer the exam process following the guidelines provided by Colorado State University to ensure academic integrity. **Please arrange proctors for each exam at least 2 weeks before the exam.**

**Proctoring Options:**

**Work with an eligible proctor external of Colorado State University. Your proctor selection is subject to approval.**

This course requires that all exams are proctored. Proctors are individuals who administer the exam process following the guidelines provided by Colorado State University to ensure academic integrity.

In accordance with Colorado State University proctoring guidelines, students have two options for having online exams proctored for this course:

1. Take the exam at the University Testing Center (UTC) on-campus in Fort Collins, CO. Schedule an appointment in advance by calling 970-491-6498. The cost to take an exam at the UTC is included in the cost of the course.

2. Use an online proctoring service, Proctor U, which requires that your computer has a webcam and a microphone. As long as your computer meets the technical requirements, you can take exams on your own computer from the privacy of your own home.

**CSU Honor Pledge**

Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Because academic integrity, and the personal and social integrity of which academic integrity is an integral part, is so central to our mission as students, teachers, scholars, and citizens, I will ask that you affirm the CSU Honor Pledge as part of completing your work in this course. **While you will not be required to affirm the honor pledge, you will be asked to affirm the following statement at the start of your exams:**

"I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."

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

**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](#).

- Videos not opening or playing on your Mac?
  - Download [Windows Media Components for QuickTime](#).
• Can’t open content created with Microsoft Office Products? Download the following viewers:
  o Word Viewer
  o PowerPoint Viewer
  o Excel Viewer
  o Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel, and PowerPoint File Formats

• Still having issues:
  o 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 may need access to Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and/or Excel to complete assignments. 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)
• Open Office—an open source productivity suite

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.

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](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](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/](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](http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support).
Tentative Course Outline AREC 310 – Fall 2019  
(All topics may not be covered)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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| Weeks 1-2         | • Review  
|                   |   o Syllabus and Simulation Trading Project  
|                   |   • Read: Online readings on Marketing Basics and Food Markets  
|                   |   • Lecture 1 – Introduction to Ag. Marketing  
| Weeks 2-3         | • Lecture 2 – Risk Management and the Futures Market  
|                   |   • Begin Simulation Trading Project  
| Week 4            | • Read: ERS Agricultural Contracting Update: Contracts in 2008  
|                   |   • Lecture 3 – Contracts  
| Weeks 4-5         | • Read: Online Chapters  
|                   |   • Lecture 4 – Demand, Supply, and Elasticities  
|                   |   EXAM I – Tentative Week of Sept 16th  
| Week 6            | • Lecture 5 – Price Discovery  
|                   |   • Read: Market and Price Behavior Readings Online  
| Weeks 7           | • Lecture 6 – Derived Demand, Derived Supply, and Marketing Margins  
| Week 8-10         | • Read: USDA ERS and AMS Readings on Marketing Costs and Margins  
|                   |   • Lecture 7 – Food Marketing Costs  
|                   |   • Lecture 8 – Indices  
|                   |   EXAM II – Tentative week of Nov 11th  
| Weeks 11-12       | • Read: Trade Readings Online  
|                   |   • Lecture 9 – Markets Across Space  
|                   |   • Lecture 10 – Interregional Trade  
|                   |   • Simulation Trading Project Ends  
| Week 13-15        | • Lecture 11 – International Trade  
|                   |   • Simulation Trading Project Report Due  
|                   |   • Read: Online readings  
| Week 16           | EXAM III - Week of Dec 16th  