

# Lassen Community College Course Outline

## AGR 2 Agricultural Economics

3.0 Units

### I. Catalog Description

Study of agriculture and farming in the economic system; basic economic concepts, and problems of agriculture; pricing and marketing problems, factors of production; and state and federal farm programs affecting the farmer's economic position. This course has been approved for hybrid delivery.

**Recommended Preparation:** Successful completion of ENGL105 or equivalent multiple measures placement.

Transfers to both UC/CSU  
General Education Area: B  
CSU GE Area: D2  
IGETC GE Area: 4B  
*C-ID AG-AB 124*  
51 Hours Lecture  
Scheduled: Spring (even)

### II. Coding Information

Repeatability: Not Repeatable, Take 1 Time  
Grading Option: Graded or Pass/No Pass  
Credit Type: Credit - Degree Applicable  
TOP Code: 011200

### III. Course Objectives

#### A. Course Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of how price equilibrium is determined by market forces using supply and demand diagrams.
2. Identify appropriate pricing and output decisions by firms in different market structures.

#### B. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the role of agriculture in the economic structure of the country and the world.
2. Define economic terms.
3. Analyze market conditions and predict price.
4. Interpret factors of production.
5. Differentiate legislation affecting the farm system.
6. Describe the monetary system in this country.
7. Explain the country's fiscal policy.
8. Contrast and critique the different economic systems.
9. Solve supply and demand schedules.
10. Construct graphs to utilize given data on cost factors.

## **IV. Course Content**

- A. The Nature of Agricultural Economics
  - 1. Definition
  - 2. Relationship to other sciences
  - 3. Macro vs microeconomics
  - 4. Comparative economic systems
- B. Consumer Behavior and Demand
  - 1. Basic choices and the law of demand
  - 2. Factors affecting demand
  - 3. Demand elasticities
  - 4. Law of diminishing marginal utility
- C. Production Functions
  - 1. Single input production functions
  - 2. Average and marginal physical product
  - 3. Stages of production
  - 4. Law of diminishing marginal returns
  - 5. Economic profit
- D. Costs of Production
  - 1. Total, average and marginal production costs
  - 2. Cost calculations
- E. Competition and the market
  - 1. The function of price
  - 2. Purely competitive markets
  - 3. The profit-maximizing monopolist
  - 4. Imperfect competition
  - 5. Anti-trust laws/agricultural bargaining
- F. Supply and Demand
  - 1. Law of supply
  - 2. Factors affecting supply
  - 3. Law of demand
  - 4. Factors affecting demand
  - 5. Elasticity
  - 6. Equilibrium
- G. Macroeconomics
  - 1. Economic indicators
  - 2. Aggregate supply
  - 3. Aggregate demand
  - 4. Factors affecting each
- H. Agricultural Price and Income Policy
  - 1. Farm credit system
  - 2. Agricultural policy
  - 3. Parity
  - 4. Major agricultural problems in the United States
- I. Marketing Agricultural Commodities
  - 1. Development of markets
  - 2. The marketing margin
  - 3. Futures trading
- J. Comparative Economic Systems
  - 1. Major types of economic systems

2. Soviet agriculture over the years
3. Transition to a "free market" economy
4. The People's Republic of China

K. International Economics

1. Basis for foreign trade
2. Economic effect of tariffs and quotas
3. Agricultural trade balance

## V. Assignments

### A. Appropriate Readings

Texts, Handouts, Journal Articles

### B. Writing Assignments

Students will be required to write a term paper. Written homework will be required.

### C. Expected Outside Assignments

Assigned reading, term paper.

### D. Specific Assignments that Demonstrate Critical Thinking

The student will develop logical sequences in problem solving exercises. Students will analyze and interpret supply and demand curves. Students will develop management decisions consistent with information provided in the course.

## VI. Methods of Evaluation

### Traditional Classroom Evaluation

Comprehensive Quizzes and Exams, Written Critical Thinking Scenarios, Problem Analysis and Solution, Research and Term Papers

### Hybrid Evaluation

All quizzes and exams will be administered during the in-person class time. Students will be expected to complete online assignments and activities equivalent to in class assignments and activities for the online portion of the course. Electronic communication, both synchronous and asynchronous (chat/forum) will be evaluated for participation and to maintain effective communication between instructor and students.

## VII. Methods of Delivery

Check those delivery methods for which, this course has been separately approved by the Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee.

Traditional Classroom Delivery     Correspondence Delivery

Hybrid Delivery     Online Delivery

### Traditional Classroom Delivery

Lecture, Class Discussion, Demonstration

### Hybrid Delivery

A combination of traditional classroom and online instruction will be utilized. Every semester, a minimum of 17 hours of class will be taught face-to-face by the instructor and the remaining hours will be instructed online through the technology platform adopted by the District. Traditional classroom instruction will consist of lectures, visual aids, discussions and group activities. Online delivery consists of instructor-generated

information, readings, news communications, web links and activities as well as facilitation of forum based discussions and communications.

**VIII. Representative Texts and Supplies**

Penson, John, "Introduction to *Agricultural Economics*", 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2017, Pearson, ISBN 978-0134602820

**IX. Discipline/s Assignment**

Agricultural Business/Services, Business, Economics

**X. Course Status**

Current Status: Active

Original Approval Date: 3/26/1991

Revised By: Brian Wolf

Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee Revision Date: 11/03/2020

Revised for IPR, no change: 03/15/2022