

Department:

Agriculture

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the field of agricultural economics as well as some of the basic tools and concepts of decision making. Concepts are illustrated in terms of selected contemporary social and economic issues, including the role of agriculture in both the national and international dimensions. Topics will include the structure of U.S. agriculture, consumer food issues, world food problems, agribusiness, and rural development.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe and explain the basic concepts of agricultural economics.
2. Relate the fundamentals of economics to the food and fiber sector, stressing concepts and current social and economic issues.
3. Critically examine and discuss current issues and myths in the food and fiber sector from an economics perspective.
4. Use economic tools to analyze economic problems in the food and fiber sector from both a national and an international perspective.

Course Content:

- A. Unit 1
 1. Introduction to economics
 2. The farm and food system
 3. Consumer behavior and demand
- B. Unit 2
 1. Production decision making: single-variable input
 2. Production decision making: two-variable input
 3. Production costs, supply, and price determination
- C. Unit 3
 1. Competition and the market
 2. Imperfect competition and market regulation
 3. Macroeconomics
- D. Unit 4
 1. Financial picture of agriculture
 2. Agricultural price and income policies
 3. Marketing agricultural commodities
- E. Unit 5
 1. Natural resources

2. Rural development
3. Comparative agricultural systems
4. International economics
5. World population and food supply

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by use of a pre-test, unit tests, assignments, final exam, and a post-test.

Instructional Materials:

Textbook: Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Cramer, Jensen, Southgate, 8th Ed., John Wiley & Sons, 2001.

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

On-Campus Students: At enrollment, any on campus student may complete a form that will allow them to self-identify any disability.

Off-Campus Regional Students: Self-identify your disability and accommodation needs with the Regional Coordinator and/or instructor, preferably prior to the first class meeting.

Online Students: Self-identify your disability and accommodation needs by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator. Students must provide their own programs to allow accessibility on their home computer.

Any student may also identify their disability by completing an online form located on the HCC homepage under Students Services/Resources/Disabilities. Questions should be directed to the Disabilities Coordinator.