

McLennan
C O M M U N I T Y
COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN

INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

AGRI 2317_87

MARY SIDES

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

NOTE: This is a Online course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

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This Instructor Plan is tentative, and changes may be made at the instructor's discretion.

Course Description:

Fundamental economic principles and their application to the agricultural industry. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec).

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None.

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

1. READ, READ, READ. Since this is an online class, the primary method of conveying information is in a written format. Therefore, reading all the course materials and communications is an absolute necessity.
2. Read the textbook and all course materials for content and comprehension and spend some time studying the material every day. Sets of multiple-choice questions based on the material in your textbook and other readings will be provided to help you study for multiple choice section your exams. In addition, there are questions at the end of each chapter that will be useful in helping you review and think about the material. You should also make up your own questions based on the information in your course notes. Most of the information in the lecture notes is taken from your textbook; however, I do add information from sources outside the textbook. You will be responsible for learning this material as well as that taken from your book.
3. Review the lecture presentations and complete the associated interactive notes. Most of the short answer questions on the exams are based on the material in lecture presentations.
4. Complete all assignments and submit them on or before their due dates. Waiting until 5:30 p.m. on the day the exercise is due to start working on reading questions, lecture notes, and/or homework is not generally going to be a strategy for success. If you have questions, there is not enough time for me to get back to you before the assignment is due. I strongly recommend that you start working on the assignments early. If you have questions about the assignment or the material, you have adequate time to ask your questions and I will have adequate time to get back to you with answers.
5. Ask questions if you have them. If there is something that is unclear to you, please ask for clarification. I will be happy to provide additional explanation. You are free to contact me via e-mail with any questions or concerns you have about the course or the material.

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6. This is a challenging course due to the large volume of material covered in a relatively short period of time. It is at least twice as challenging when it is taken online. Online classes require good time management skills. In a face-to-face class, students spend about three hours per week in class. In order to be successful, they also need to plan on spending at least another three to four hours per week outside of class reading and studying the material. This means a total of six to seven hours per week. To be successful in an online class, students need to budget at least as much time for reading and studying as their counterparts in a face-to-face class (six to seven hours per week).

7. Remember that college is much, much different than high school. There are no exam re-takes or extensive extra credit, and late submission of multiple assignments at the end of the semester is not allowed. Those of you who have been in college more than one semester already know this fact very well. Southern Methodist University (SMU) has a website that provides a nice summary of the differences between the two educational levels. Here is the web address:

<http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/NeatStuffforNewStudents/HowIsCollegeDifferentfromHighSchool>

I strongly encourage all of you, especially those of you who are new to college, to look at this website. It will give you an idea of what is expected of you as a college student and will (hopefully) help decrease the culture shock.

When all is said and done, I do not GIVE you a grade for this course, you EARN the grade you receive. Earning the grade involves not only working hard and completing assignments by their due dates but understanding and mastering the material. Learning is an ACTIVE process that is more than simple memorization; learning requires gaining an understanding of the information and concepts involved. Learning the material takes more time and effort than just logging into Brightspace and passively looking at the materials you find there. Like most of life's endeavors, you will get out of this class what you put into it. I have provided some strategies to help you learn the material, but if you have questions about other study methods, please do not hesitate to ask.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Ms. Mary Sides

MCC E-mail: msides@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8164

Office Location: Room 208A – Science Building. Room 124 - Highlander Ranch.

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: Videoconference by appointment.

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Other Instruction Information: The best way to reach me is through the e-mail address listed above. I may not be able to respond immediately, but I will try to respond within 24 hours to communications received during the week (Monday through Thursday). I will try to respond to messages received over the week-end (Friday through Sunday) within 72 hours. Please include the following information in your message:

- **Your name and the course name and number in the subject line.** For this class, the course name and number is AGRI 2317.
- **Your purpose for writing.** Please state the purpose of the message in the subject line.
- **Please utilize correct spelling and grammar.** Proper spelling and grammar are vital to clear communication.

You need to use your MCC e-mail account when contacting me. Please do not attach files or e-mail assignments without prior authorization. Also, please do not put me on your e-mail lists for inspirational, funny, or chain e-mails. E-mails should be confined to class-related issues.

I only reply to telephone messages when I am on campus. As I live over 1.50 hours from campus, I will only be on campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the semester. Therefore, if you do need to call me, please leave me your e-mail address so that I can reply.

Required Text & Materials:

For our textbook for this course, we will be using selections from an open educational resource (OER). I will be providing the relevant chapters to you through Brightspace. Therefore, you will not need to purchase the textbook. I am providing the information on the OER below.

Title: Principles of Microeconomics

Author: Taylor, Greenlaw, and Shapiro

Edition: 2nd

Publisher: OpenStax

ISBN: 978-1-947172-35-7

You will also be reading and answering questions on selections from an additional book. You will need to purchase this book.

Title: The End of Plenty

Author: Joel K. Bourne, Jr.

Edition: 1st

Publisher: WW Norton & Company

ISBN: 978-0393352962

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

This section is an online format. Learning will be achieved through the required readings, videos, review and completion of posted lectures, homework exercises, learning notebooks, and lecture exams. Material is presented via Brightspace.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Describe fundamental macro- and micro-economic principles.
2. Apply economic principles to agricultural production, marketing and consumption.
3. Describe the different agricultural economics fields (e.g. food industry, demand theory, supply theory, competitive environments).

Course Outline or Schedule:

Week 1 (Week of 01/10/2022): Introduction to the Course. Introduction to Ag Economics.

Week 2 (Week of 01/17/2022): The Tools of the Agricultural Economist.

Week 3 (Week of 01/24/2022): Agriculture in the 21 Century. Supply and Demand – Part I.

Week 4 (Week of 01/31/2022): Major Exam 1 over Intro to Ag Economics, Tools of the Agricultural Economist, and Ag in the 21st century. Supply and Demand – Part II.

Week 5 (Week of 02/07/2022): Supply and Demand – Part III. Elasticity.

Week 6 (Week of 02/14/2022): Utility Analysis. Production Economics – Part I.

Week 7 (Week of 02/21/2022): Major Exam 2 over Supply and Demand, Elasticity, and Utility Analysis. Production Economics – Part II.

Week 8 (Week of 02/28/2022): Production Cost Analysis/Perfect Competition Parts I and II.

Spring Break! (Week of 03/07/2022)

Week 9 (Week of 03/14/2022): Production Cost Analysis/Perfect Competition Parts III and IV.

Week 10 (Week of 03/21/2022): Monopoly. Major Exam 3 over Production Economics and Cost Analysis. **03/25/2022 – Last day for student-initiated withdrawals with an automatic grade of ‘W.’**

Week 11 (Week of 03/28/2022): Monopolistic Competition. Oligopoly.

Week 12 (Week of 04/04/2022): Monopoly and Antitrust Policy. Negative Externalities.

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Week 13 (Week of 04/11/2022): Major Exam 4 over Monopoly, Monopolistic Competition, Oligopoly, and Monopoly and Antitrust Policy. Positive externalities.

Week 14 (Week of 04/18/2022): International Trade. Globalization and Protectionism.

Week 15 (Week of 04/25/2022): Major Exam 5 over Negative Externalities, Positive Externalities, International Trade, and Globalization. Prepare for Final Exam.

Week 16 (Week of 05/02/2021): Final Exam.

This schedule is tentative and may be changed at the instructor's discretion. Students will be informed of changes by e-mail and announcements in Brightspace.

Course Grading Information:

Orientation Activities	50 points
Major Exam 1	75 points
Major Exam 2	75 points
Major Exam 3	75 points
Major Exam 4	75 points
Major Exam 5	75 points
Analysis Paper Project	125 points
Homework Assessments	225 points
Learning Journals	125 points
<u>Comprehensive final exam</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total	1000 points

The points needed for each letter grade are as follows:

90% of 1000 points = 900 to 1000 points =	A
80% of 1000 points = 800 to 899 points =	B
70% of 1000 points = 700 to 799 points =	C
60% of 1000 points = 600 to 699 points =	D
Fewer than 600 points	= F

I do my best to have major exams graded within seven days of the date they are due; I try to get homework assignments graded within 10 days of the due date. Homework assessments are automatically graded by the system once they are submitted. Once the due date has passed, you can access the answers to homework assessments. You will be able to see the questions, the answers you provided, and the correct answers. You will be able to access the answers to learning notebooks and exams once they have been graded.

All exams will taken through Brightspace; printed exams will not be given in this class.

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There will be five (5) major (lecture) exams worth 75 points each and one (1) final exam worth 100 points.

The major exams will be based on material from the textbook readings, the lectures, and any additional assigned readings and videos. These exams will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. Most of the questions will be direct knowledge questions, but a portion of the questions will require you to exercise your critical thinking skills. The major exams in the course will be unproctored, timed, open book exams.

Now, before you get too excited about the prospect of open-book exams, there are a couple of conditions that will be in place to maintain academic integrity. The first condition is that these exams will have a very strict time limit. You will not be allowed to enter additional answers once the time limit is reached. So, you will still need to study and prepare for the exams. There will not be enough time for you to look up every single answer on the test, so you will still need to prepare and learn the material.

The second condition is that each test will be a random draw of questions. This means is that each student's exam will be slightly different.

The third condition is that you will need to download and use Respondus LockDown Browser. You will be allowed to access online course resources for your exams such as your textbook and lecture documents, but you will not be able access other websites outside the test window. Watch this video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser:

<https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml>

There will be an analysis paper based on assessment of Internet sources of scientific information. Students will be assigned to teams. Each member of a team will be assigned a different search engine to be used to research the given topic. In addition to each student submitting a paper detailing the results of his or her research, there will also be a team discussion to analyze the reliability of each of the assigned search engines to provide reliable scientific content. The paper and associated assignments will be worth a total of 125 points. The paper itself will be worth 100 points, and students will have the opportunity to earn the remaining 25 points based on their participation in the team discussion and completion of preparatory quizzes and follow-up questions. Additional information regarding this assignment will be provided later in the semester.

There will be a comprehensive final exam. This exam will be based on material covered in the lectures and from the assigned readings (both textbook and additional).

The lectures and student notes for the course have been prepared to help the student understand the material and should be carefully reviewed and the student notes completed. In order to assist with this process, student will submit a copy of the student notes as a Brightspace quiz.

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There will be homework assessments designed to help you start interacting with the course materials. These assessments will consist of a combination of multiple choice, matching, ordering, and choose all that apply questions. You will have a pdf copy of the homework assessment to use to get your answers, and you will then submit your answers using a quiz link in Brightspace.

There will also be a set of learning journal assignments that you will submit as part of your course requirements. They will be submitted using quiz links in Brightspace. For each notebook, you will be providing answers to a series of questions related to the information you are learning in that unit. You will be asked to show calculations and/or provide detailed answers to critical thinking/analysis questions from your lab assessments.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Since this is an online course, and the materials may be completed and submitted on or before the due date, late work will not be accepted except in cases of extenuating circumstances, and the student contacts me to make arrangements prior to the due date. Documentation of the extenuating circumstances will be required.

Completion of each activity (homework assignment or lecture exam) counts as one “day” of attendance. Failure to complete seven (7) or more activities (homework assessments or exams) (25 percent of the activities) on or before the due dates will be taken as evidence that a student does not intend to complete the course. In this case and in accordance with MCC’s attendance policy, the student will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. The instructor may reinstate the student if satisfied that the student will resume regular attendance and will complete the course. If the student’s 25 percent absences are reached after the official drop date, the instructor may assign a W, if the student is passing and requests to be withdrawn. However, if a student who is not passing reaches the 25 percent point after the official drop date, the student will receive an F. In extenuating circumstances, the instructor may assign a W to a student who is not passing.

As the exams are online and available for several days during the week they are assigned, make-up exams will generally not be given. If a student misses one of the regularly scheduled major exams, the grades for the other four major exams will be averaged, and the average will be substituted for the missing grade.

The comprehensive final exam may not be made up unless there are extenuating circumstances, and the student makes arrangements with me prior to the exam. In cases where arrangements are made, the student will receive an ‘I’ (incomplete) until such time

as he or she can arrange to take the final exam. Failure to complete the final exam prior to the end of the next long semester will result in the 'I' automatically converting to an 'F.' In cases where an 'I' is assigned, it is the student's responsibility to contact me to make arrangements for completing the final exam.

Due to the rules of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), I cannot discuss your grades with your parents, spouse, children, significant other, employer, family pet, etc. without your written permission. This permission has to be in writing; consent furnished by e-mail is not acceptable. In addition, I cannot discuss your grades with you via e-mail since it is not considered a secure form of communication.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to maintain online decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.

Professionalism. A casual and friendly atmosphere is encouraged. However, respect and civility is absolutely required in all interactions with your instructor and fellow classmates.

Testing. All exams will be taken through Brightspace. The major exams are timed, open-book exams. Each exam will be available from 8:00 am on Monday and 8:00 pm on Thursday of the week it has been assigned. The Final Exam will be available from 8:00 am on Monday and 8:00 pm on Tuesday for graduating students and 8:00 pm on Thursday of the week it has been assigned.

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is very important. You should always do your own work. The tests are opportunities to demonstrate how much you have learned. Cheating is dishonest; it is also disrespectful of your classmates, your instructor, and most of all, yourself.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

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ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.