

AREC 202: Agricultural and Resource Economics
Fall 2011
Tuesday and Thursday
11:00–12:15 AM (Section 3, CRN63323)

Instructor: Dr. Stephan Kroll
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E-mail: Stephan.Kroll@colostate.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 3:30-4:30 or by appointment.
Class Website: On Aplia (see attachment). No RamCT.
Classroom: Eddy 212

Co-Instructor:
 Rebecca Goldbach (e-mail: becky.goldbach@colostate.edu)
 B305 Clark Bldg.
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 Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

Teaching Assistant:
 Maryam Tabatabaei (e-mail: maryam.tabatabaei@colostate.com).
 TA's Office hours: Monday and Thursday, 4-5pm
 TA's Office: B307 Clark Bldg.

Prerequisites: MATH 117 (can be taken simultaneously)

Required Text:
Microeconomics, 2nd edition, Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, Worth.
 You are also required to enroll in the Aplia webpage for this course (see page 5).
 Aplia has to be paid by September 10.

iClicker:
 You 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 30. To do this, go to clicker.colostate.edu/registration.aspx. Login with your eldentity eName and password. In the iClicker ID field, enter your remote ID and select the "Register" button. 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.

Course Description (from the Catalog):
 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).

Learning Objectives:

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.

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 focus question sets	50 points
d) 70% best weekly iClicker grades	30 points
e) Writing assignment I, due November 15	50 points
f) Writing assignment II, due December 8	50 points
g) Midterm Exam, Thursday, October 20, in class	60 points
h) Final Exam, Tuesday, December 13, 9:40 a.m.	<u>60 points</u>
Total Amount:	400 points

Everybody has to take the midterm exam in class on October 20, and the final exam at 9:40 a.m. on December 13. No exceptions! If you foresee a scheduling conflict for either midterm or final exam, you might want to consider not taking this class.

The final exam is cumulative and contains only multiple-choice questions.

All problem sets on Aplia need to be completed before the weekly deadline (usually Thursday, 10:00 p.m.). Once the deadline has passed, Aplia will not let you work on the problem set anymore and automatically assigns you a 0.

No make-up exams, quizzes, or focus questions!

The cutoff points for the different grades are:

A/A+	372	(93%)	C+	304	(76%)
A-	360	(90%)	C	280	(70%)
B+	344	(86%)			
B	332	(83%)	D	240	(60%)
B-	320	(80%)	F	Below 240 points	(<60%)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Please contact me within the first two weeks of the semester if you need special accommodations. If you believe that you need special accommodations but you have not talked to anybody from Resources for Disabled Students (RDS), please do so before you meet with me. Their contact information can be found on <http://rds.colostate.edu/>. Their office is in General Services, room 100, phone 491-6385.

Cheating and Academic Dishonesty:

Don't do it!

All students are expected to adhere to the Student's Responsibilities as outlined in the Policies and Guiding Principles section of the CSU General Catalog (<http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/FrontPDF/1.6POLICIES1112f.pdf>).

Cell Phones, Internet and Similar Electronic Devices:

Please turn your cell phones and similar devices off before class! No texting during class! If your phone rings during class, if you text, check your e-mail, surf the web, or if there is any other disruption due to electronic devices, then five points will be deducted from your total semester point score for each incident. If you use a laptop for taking notes, you need to sit in one of the first two rows. Also, please do not read newspapers during class!

Focus Questions

There will be focus questions every Tuesday (except for November 15). Focus questions are a few simple and brief questions about an assigned reading for the upcoming week. There will be 13 focus question sets, of which the 10 best count towards your final grade.

Quizzes

There will be a paper quiz every week (except weeks 1 and 4), usually on Thursdays. Quizzes will consist of 9 or 10 multiple-choice questions. There will be 13 quizzes, of which the 10 best count towards your final grade.

Aplia Homework

Every week (except for the week of the midterm exam) we will post homework assignments on the Aplia class webpage. There will be a total of 13 graded Aplia HW assignments, of which the 10 best count towards your final grade. Each assignment has to be answered on Aplia and is usually due on Thursday nights, 10:00 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 we 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.

Writing Assignments

Details about the two writing assignments will be announced as the semester progresses. The total combined length of your two papers will not exceed five pages.

Course Outline:

	Tuesday	Thursday online (Aplia HW sets are due 10 p.m.)	Thursday in-class	Textbook Chapters (tentative)
Week 1 (8/23 and 8/25)				Intro, 1
Week 2 (8/31 and 9/1)	Focus Questions 1	Practice Aplia Set	Quiz 1	9, 2
Week 3 (9/6 and 9/8)	Focus Questions 2	Aplia Set 1	Quiz 2	2, 3
Week 4 (9/13 and 9/15)	Focus Questions 3	Aplia Set 2 (due on Wednesday), Aplia Set 3 (due on Thursday)	Market game 1 (extra-credit pts)*	3, 4
Week 5 (9/20 and 9/22)	Focus Questions 4	Aplia Set 4	Quiz 3	4
Week 6 (9/27 and 9/29)	Focus Questions 5	Aplia Set 5	Quiz 4	5
Week 7 (10/4 and 10/6)	Focus Questions 6	Aplia Set 6	Quiz 5	6
Week 8 (10/11 and 10/13)	Focus Questions 7	Aplia Set 7	Quiz 6	7
Week 9 (10/18 and 10/20)	Focus Questions 8, Quiz 7		Midterm Exam	7
Week 10 (10/25 and 10/27)	Focus Questions 9	Aplia Set 8	Quiz 8	8
Week 11 (11/1 and 11/3)	Focus Questions 10	Aplia Set 9	Quiz 9	10
Week 12 (11/8 and 11/10)	Focus Questions 11	Aplia Set 10	Quiz 10	12
Week 13 (11/15 and 11/17)	Quiz 11, First Writing Assignment due	Aplia Set 11 (due on Wednesday!)	Market game 2 (extra credit pts)*	13
Thanksgiving Break (11/22 and 11/24)	--	--	--	
Week 14 (11/29 and 12/1)	Focus Questions 12	Aplia Set 12	Quiz 12	14, 15
Week 15 (12/6 and 12/8)	Focus Questions 13, Quiz 13	Aplia Set 13	Review session, Second Writing Assignment due	17, 18
Finals Week	Final Exam (9:40-11:40 am)			

*September 15, November 17: Class will not take place in the classroom but over the internet: During the regular class time, everybody has to be at a computer with internet connection (at home, in the library, in a computer lab, at Starbucks, at a beach in Mexico with wireless access, wherever). Since several homework assignments and the second writing assignment will refer to the market games we play on that day (and since a small amount of extra-credit points will be handed out), participation in these games is required!

How to access your Aplia course

Agricultural and Resource Econ, Fall 2011

Instructor: Stephan Kroll
Start Date: 08/21/2011
Course Key: CX77-L5XF-4VKR

Registration

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com/>
2. **If you already have an account, sign in.** Go to your My Courses page, and click the *Enroll in a New Course* button.
If you don't have an account, click the *Create a New Account* button, and choose *Student Account*.
3. Enter your Course Key when prompted: **CX77-L5XF-4VKR**. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions to access your course.

Payment

Online: Purchase access to your course (including the digital textbook) from the Aplia website.

Bookstore: Purchase access to Aplia from your bookstore. Check with the bookstore to find out what they offer for your course.

After paying, you will have the option to purchase a physical book at a discounted price. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 09/10/2011.

Work Sheet for Grades

	Aplia Set	Focus Questions	Quiz
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
Total (incl. lowest grades)			

Lowest grade			
Second-lowest grade			
Third-lowest grade			
Total (w/o lowest grades)			

	Your Points	Points possible
Total Aplia		
Total FQ		
Total Quiz		
Total iClicker		
Writing Assignment 1		50
Writing Assignment 2		50
Midterm Exam		60
Final Exam		60

Semester Points		
Percentage		
Letter Grade		