

# AGRC 113.3 Class Syllabus

## Agri-Food Issues and Institutions

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Agriculture and Bioresources

Online – PAWS/Blackboard  
January 3 - April 5, 2019

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(call or email to arrange)

### Land Acknowledgement

*Our Saskatoon campus is situated on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis.*

### Course Description

The official course description and prerequisites are in the U of S Course and Program Catalogue available at <http://www.usask.ca/calendar/coursecat/>

### Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this class, students should be able to:

1. Articulate key economic principles
2. Demonstrate proficiency using economic theory to analyze issues in the agriculture sector
3. Discuss the pursuit of economic, social, and environmental sustainability in decision making.
4. Explain the theory of production as it applies to the agriculture sector
5. Illustrate how production and profit are related in the business of agriculture
6. Describe market mechanisms that affect producers and consumers
7. Evaluate shocks to agricultural markets
8. Identify sources of market failure in the agriculture sector
9. Evaluate solutions to market failure
10. Discuss the importance of trade to the agricultural economy in Canada and Saskatchewan
11. Apply economic concepts to a variety of issues faced by consumers and agribusiness firms.

### Course Overview

This course explains economic concepts as they are applied to the agriculture industry. The theory of economics helps us to make decisions in cases where we have scarce resources. Each module describes economic theories and provides real-world examples to show you the relevance and power of economic thinking. The course also takes a broader view of decision making by considering the effects of individual and government decisions on communities and the environment.

The course is designed around current events and gives you many opportunities to apply what you've learned. Each module concludes with a choice of assessments ranging from discussion questions, blogs, and précis, to the development of a wiki and online debate.

### Required Resources

#### Textbook

Taylor, Timothy and Greenlaw, Steven A. Principles of Economics. OpenStax College. Available online at <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/principles-of-economics-191>

The textbook is **FREE!** I chose this textbook for a couple of reasons: 1) there are not a lot of micro/macro texts out there and there is not one single text that ECON 111 uses, and 2) it is an open text, which means that it is free (unless you want a printed copy). The textbook is an additional reference.

## Other readings

As assigned by the instructor.

## Class Schedule

Week	Module Title	Assessments	Points	Due Dates (Mondays 1pm)
Jan 3-9	1. Why do I have to take economics?	1.1. Agriculture examples	10	14-Jan
Jan10-16	2. The value of economic thinking	2.1. Research/post 2.2. Current event analysis	20 10	21-Jan
Jan 17-23	3. Sustainability	3.1. Video review <b>3.2. Wiki – mandatory</b>	10 50	28-Jan
Jan 24-30	4. Agricultural production	4.1. Calculation assignment - factors of production	10	04-Feb
Jan 31-Feb 6	5. Production and profit	5.1. News analysis <b>5.2. Optimal production – mandatory</b>	20 20	11-Feb
Feb 7-27	6. Producers and consumers	6.1. Blog + comments 6.2. News analysis	20 20	04-Mar
Feb 28 - Mar 6	7. Agricultural markets	<b>7.1. Elasticity calculations - mandatory</b> 7.2. Interview & report	20 20	11-Mar
Mar 7-13	8. Market failure	8.1. Blog + comments 8.2. News Flash - video recording (group option)	20 20	18-Mar
Mar 14-20	9. Trade in agricultural products	9.1 Editorial 9.2. Go shopping	20 20	25-Mar
Mar 21-27	10. Hot topics in agriculture I	10.2. Magazine article (e.g. Western Producer)	20	01-Apr
Mar 28 - Apr 4	11. Hot topics in agriculture II	<b>11.1 Online debate (30) – mandatory</b> 11.2 Infographic	60 20	01-Apr-04 Apr 04-Apr
Exam Window Apr 8-30	12. Final Assignment	<b>12.1 Reflection essay</b>	50	TBD

*Note: No Class Days/No Evaluation Days for this Class in February 18 (stat); February 18-23 (Midterm Break); No Final Exams: April 19-20 (Easter Break)*

## Evaluation

There is a choice of assessment/assignment at the end of each module. Assessments are set up such that you can do the minimum requirement (mandatory assignments), or you can do more than one to gain more points.

*Note: If for any reason the Class Syllabus Reading List does not match the Module Reading Detailed descriptions of assessments will be in the "Evaluations" section in your course site.*

## Grading Scheme

This course will run on a point system. You may choose zero, one, or more assessments at the end of each module and submit them online. You will receive points based on the quality of your response up to the maximum allowed for each assessment. There are a total of 460 points available. You need to earn 110 points to pass the course, and you need to complete ALL mandatory assignments.

Late assessments will not be marked. There is no extra credit. Two weeks after each module, the assessments for that module will become unavailable for credit. In other words, you may not wait until week 8 to complete assessments from week 1.

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90-100% Exceptional 400-460 pts	A superior performance with consistent strong evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a comprehensive, incisive grasp of the subject matter;</li><li>• an ability to make insightful critical evaluation of the material given;</li><li>• an exceptional capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;</li><li>• an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts fluently.</li></ul>
80-90% Excellent 351-399 pts	An excellent performance with strong evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a comprehensive grasp of the subject matter;</li><li>• an ability to make sound critical evaluation of the material given;</li><li>• a very good capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;</li><li>• an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts fluently.</li></ul>
70-79% Good 236-350 pts	A good performance with evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a substantial knowledge of the subject matter;</li><li>• a good understanding of the relevant issues and a good familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;</li><li>• some capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;</li><li>• a good ability to organize, to analyze and to examine the subject material in a critical and constructive manner.</li></ul>
60-69% Satisfactory 161-235 pts	A generally satisfactory and intellectually adequate performance with evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an acceptable basic grasp of the subject material;</li><li>• a fair understanding of the relevant issues;</li><li>• a general familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;</li><li>• an ability to develop solutions to moderately difficult problems related to the subject material;</li><li>• a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner.</li></ul>

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50-59% Minimal Pass 111-160 pts	A barely acceptable performance with evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a familiarity with the subject material;</li> <li>• some evidence that analytical skills have been developed;</li> <li>• some understanding of relevant issues;</li> <li>• some familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;</li> <li>• attempts to solve moderately difficult problems related to the subject material and to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner which are only partially successful.</li> </ul>
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<50% Failure < 110 pts	An unacceptable performance
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## Final Exam

The final exam for this class is a reflection essay of approximately 2,000 words. The question will be assigned one week before the due date (TBA). The exam will be take-home.

Students are encouraged to review all examination policies and procedures at <http://students.usask.ca/academics/exams.php>

### Online Exams

Please note that online exams are viewed and treated the same as any other exam. Online exams are tracked and monitored for irregularities.

Any collusion, collaborating, copying, cheating or any form of academic misconduct is a very serious offence at the University of Saskatchewan and could result in suspension or expulsion from the university.

## Additional Information

### Participation Expectations

To pass the course, you must **complete all mandatory assessments**.

**You must submit or participate in mandatory assignments to pass the course** –failure to complete these elements will result in failure of the class. These include:

- **The wiki assignment**
- **Optimal production**
- **Elasticity calculations**
- **Debate**
- **The final essay**

### Submitting Assignments

All assessments will be submitted online in the Blackboard Course through the assignments tool.

### Extensions and Late Assignments

Overdue assignments will be assessed a penalty of 0. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

### Additional Information

#### DEU Writing Centre - Quality writing help for free!

Anyone taking a distance class (online, independent studies, televised, or multi-mode delivery) administered by the DEU can use this free service. The Writing Centre provides tools and support to help you write effective essays, reports, or reviews. Simply submit a project draft, and a qualified tutor will

assess your work and offer advice to improve your project. Contact the DEU Writing Centre at <http://distanceeducation.usask.ca/support/writing-centre.php>

More information on the Academic Courses Policy on course delivery, examinations and assessment of student learning can be found at: <http://policies.usask.ca/policies/academic-affairs/academic-courses.php>

The University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter is intended to define aspirations about the learning experience that the University aims to provide, and the roles to be played in realizing these aspirations by students, instructors and the institution. A copy of the Learning Charter can be found at: <http://teaching.usask.ca/about/policies/learning-charter.php>

## Integrity Defined

“Integrity is expected of all students in their academic work – class participation, examinations, assignments, research, practical – and in their non-academic interactions and activities as well.” (Office of the University Secretary)

It is your responsibility to be familiar with the University of Saskatchewan policies and procedures on Academic Misconduct (<http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/academic-misconduct.php>) and Non-Academic Misconduct (<https://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/non-academic-misconduct.php>).

## Access and Equity Services

If you are a student needing accommodations based on a diagnosed disability (learning, medical, physical, and/or mental health), religion, family status (including pregnancy), and/or gender identity, you must register with Access and Equity Services (AES) in order to access AES programs and supports. Information about AES can be found at <https://students.usask.ca/health/centres/access-equity-services.php>

For AES exam accommodations please ensure that you fill out the AES Exam Accommodation form within the applicable deadlines. (<https://students.usask.ca/health/aes/accommodations.php>)

## Distance and Distributed Library Services

As a U of S student, if you are located outside of Saskatoon, you can find help accessing library resources and services at: <https://library.usask.ca/ddls/#RegisterforDDLs>.

## Copyright

Every effort has been made to trace ownership of all copyrighted material and to secure permission from copyright holders. In the event of any question arising as to the use of any material, we will be pleased to make the necessary corrections. The University of Saskatchewan copyright policy is available at <http://www.usask.ca/copyright/>.

## Acknowledgements

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