

ECON 4640: Economics and Agriculture, Spring 2009

6:00 – 8:54 PM, Tuesday

Instructor: Dr. Houk
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 10:00-11:00 AM, Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-2:15 PM.
Office: Bizzini Hall 101-A
Telephone: 667-3500
Email: EHouk@csustan.edu
Course Website: <http://www.csustan.edu/Econ/EHouk/4640.htm>

Textbook

Knutson, Penn, Flinchbaugh, and Outlaw. *Agricultural and Food Policy*, 6th edition. Prentice Hall, 2007.
(Recommended, but not required)

In addition to the textbook, you will be assigned other required readings. Additional reading materials may be handed out in class, made available electronically, or you will be responsible for locating and printing them yourself.

Students are responsible for the material covered in class and the material in any assigned readings. Students will receive the greatest benefit if they read the assigned readings before class.

Course Description

An examination of the resource allocation and decision making environment of agricultural markets. The course will provide students with the tools to help them understand the complex issues in agriculture and related markets, including market structures, international trade, resource use, and government agriculture policy. Prerequisites: ECON 2500 and 2510 or consent of instructor.

Course Objectives/Learning Goals

Understand the fundamental economic relationships and principles that affect agricultural markets; understand the justification for agricultural policy and the process of policy formulation; and understand the economic implications of agricultural policy including the effects of international trade.

Course Policies

- *Behavior: Respect your classmates.* Do not distract others by talking, reading newspapers, coming into class late or leaving early, and make sure all cell phones are turned off before coming to class. In addition, you are expected to follow all guidelines established in your student handbook.
- *Diversity:* I want everyone to feel welcome in class; therefore no disparaging remarks will be tolerated in regards to ethnic background, sex, sexual preference, age, religion, disability, socioeconomic background, educational background, etc.
- *Read the syllabus and course outline to be aware of all requirements and deadlines.* I expect all students to make the effort to learn agricultural economics, attend class, and read the class materials.
- *Academic dishonesty (plagiarizing, cheating, or helping someone else violate the standards of academic behavior):* will be dealt with at the instructor's discretion, with the likely penalty including an "F" for the course. It will also be reported to the student affairs disciplinary office for additional actions as outlined in your student handbook.
- *Please ask for help if you need it.* I am available outside of class.

Grades

Final grades are based on exams, term paper and presentation, homework's, and attendance/participation as follows:

1. Exam 1	100
2. Exam 2	100
3. Final Exam	100
4. Paper/Presentation	50
5. <u>Homework</u>	<u>50</u>
Total:	400 Points

Grade Scale: (Credit/No Credit is not available)

92% - 100% = A	88% - 89.9% = B+	78% - 79.9% = C+	68% - 69.9% = D+	Less than 60% = F
90% - 91.9% = A-	82% - 87.9% = B	72% - 77.9% = C	62% - 67.9% = D	
	80% - 81.9% = B-	70% - 71.9% = C-	60% - 61.9% = D-	

Exams/Final Exam: Exams may involve essays, short essays, short problems, and multiple choice questions. You may use a simple calculator during exams, but no programmable calculators, laptops, cell phones, or PDA's. You will have the entire two hours scheduled for the final exam. The final exam will resemble the other exams, but will be longer and will include cumulative material.

Paper/Presentation: This project will require you to demonstrate your understanding of basic economic principles as they relate to a current agricultural policy, problem, or issue. More information will be given at a later time.

Homework: Homework will be given throughout the semester (2-5 times), these assignments are intended to help you learn, feel free to refer to your text or ask questions as needed.

Late Policy

Students are responsible for handing in assignments when they are due. Homework will be accepted late for partial credit (grade reduced by 50%) up to the date of the next exam. Make-up exams will only be allowed with written verification of an unavoidable circumstance and must be approved. Make-up exams are strongly discouraged. Late papers will automatically be reduced by 20%, with an additional reduction of 5% for every additional school day past the due date.

* Last day to drop the course without special permission is March 13, 2009 (Census Date).