

Agricultural and Resource Economics
AREC 202 – Section 3
Colorado State University
Spring 2020

Instructor: Rebecca Cleary, Ph.D.
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Office: B-332 Clark Building
Class website: canvas.colostate.edu

Class time: 3:30 – 4:45 p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays
Location: Clark A 102
Office hours: 1 – 3 p.m. Wednesdays in Clark B-332
TA: Justine Schoenbacher
TA's email: justine.schoenbacher@colostate.edu
TA's office hours: 2 – 3 p.m. Tuesdays & 11 – 12 p.m. Thursdays in Clark B-302

Required text: Frank, R., et al. *Principles of Microeconomics*. McGraw Hill Education. Any edition.

Course description (from the course catalog): This course provides an 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).

Note also that you cannot get credit for both AREC 202 and ECON 202.

Course objectives: By the end of the course you should be able to:

- identify the core principles of microeconomics and apply them to human behavior in daily situations;
- explain how scarcity influences value;
- compare the costs and benefits (i.e., tradeoffs) relevant to the decision-making process of individuals and societies;
- express how incentives, and who is incentivized, matter;
- develop an understanding of the importance of efficiency; and
- assess the advantages and limitations of markets and their role in allocating scarce resources.

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 your participation in iClicker questions. In order to receive this credit, you will need to register your iClicker remote online before class on **Tuesday, January 28th**. To do this, go to the iClicker tab on the side menu of our course's

Canvas page (DO NOT GO TO THE iCLICKER WEBSITE!!!). Click 'Remote Registration' and follow the instructions on the page (there are pictures, too).

Canvas & Connect: You will be required to complete course components via Canvas (canvas.colostate.edu). Via Canvas, you can also access the McGraw-Hill Connect site, which supplements your textbook.

Course grade:

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

10 best focus questions	50 points
10 best homework assignments	50 points
iClicker Participation	50 points
Writing Assignment, Part 1	25 points
Quiz 1	25 points
Midterm	50 points
Quiz 2	25 points
Writing Assignment, Part 2	75 points
Final	<u>50 points</u>
	400 points

The final exam is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2020 from 9:40 – 11:40 a.m. in Clark A-102.

All exams and quizzes will be multiple choice. However, in order to answer some of the questions, drawing a graph or writing out an answer may help you select the correct choice. An extra credit question may be offered on the Final Exam; the amount of points to be earned will be stated on the exam.

If you will miss a quiz or exam, you must notify the instructor at **least two weeks prior** to the absence and it will be at the discretion of the instructor if a make-up is scheduled. If a make-up is granted, it will only be granted once throughout the entire semester.

Cut-off points for grade points:

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

Homework Assignments: A homework assignment based on the previous week will be due each week, usually on Tuesdays. These homework assignments will be made available via Canvas. There will be 12 homework assignments. You will be allowed three attempts to answer

all questions correctly. Your homework grade will not be penalized for second and third attempts. Homework answers will be available the day after the homework is due. Late assignments will not be accepted, however, only the best 10 will count toward your final grade. You cannot earn more than 50 points on all homework assignments.

Focus Questions: There will be focus questions every week, usually on Thursday. Focus questions are a few simple and brief questions about the upcoming material. Reading ahead will be essential to performing well on these assignments. The focus questions will be posted online before they are given in class. There will be 12 focus question sets, of which the best 10 count towards your final grade. You cannot make up missed Focus Questions, but you can miss two without penalty. You cannot earn more than 50 points on all Focus Questions.

Daily iClicker: Every day we will sprinkle several multiple-choice questions into the class presentation, some planned, some spontaneous, to be answered by you with the iClicker system. If you answer **at least** 50% of the iClicker questions you will be given the full 50 points.

Quizzes: There will be 2 quizzes, each worth 25 points.

Writing Assignment: Come up with a microeconomic question, from a naturalist perspective. Your question must be interesting and your answer must be plausible. A more detailed description of the Writing Assignment plus grading criteria will be posted on Canvas later this semester.

- Part 1: By Thursday, March 5, you need to have determined what your question is. You must upload your question to Canvas.
- Part 2: By Thursday, April 30, you need to hand in both the question and your answer.

TILT Study Groups for AREC 202: Time and location TBA. Description from the TILT Website: Similar to study groups you've been involved with before, you will meet weekly with others in your course. It's an opportunity to deepen your understanding of content, discuss tough concepts, learn effective study techniques, get course tips, prepare for exams, and practice the skills needed to be successful.

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.

Cell Phones, Internet and Similar Electronic Devices: Please turn your cell phones and similar devices off before class! No texting during class! If you use a laptop during class, please do not distract yourself or others by visiting websites.

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy {Section 1.6} of the Colorado State University General Catalog, the Student Conduct Code, and University Principles of Community.

Please refer to The University Principles of Community found on page 9 of this syllabus.

Please refer to our cheating and plagiarism policy found on the Canvas homepage and page __ of this syllabus.

Student Conduct Code: <http://www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu/conduct-code.aspx#conduct>

Colorado State University General Catalog: <http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/>

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

We take the issue of academic integrity very seriously in this course. You are expected to do your own work and to not access notes or the web during an exam, copy from someone else's exam or to provide exam answers to another student during an exam. We reserve the right to proctor all exams and will take actions to ensure that all students are following this policy.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one's own without proper acknowledgment. Examples include a submission of purchased research papers as one's own work; paraphrasing and/or quoting material without properly documenting the source" (CSU Policies and Guiding Principles, 2017-2018).

Our motivation for rigorously enforcing a no-plagiarism policy is twofold: First, plagiarism is a form of theft. Taking someone else's words or ideas without attribution is stealing someone else's work. Second, copying someone else's work does not fulfill the purpose of the assignment, which is for you to develop critical thinking and analysis skills. You demonstrate this by presenting your own, new, synthesis and analysis in your writing. Simply copying or paraphrasing from source materials does not demonstrate this, however insightful the source(s) may be. Good writing generates new knowledge. This should be your goal in this class, in other courses at CSU and in your career after you leave here.

In this course all written work will be spot checked for plagiarism issues by both instructors and originality checking software such as VeriCite. If you are caught plagiarizing materials you will receive a 0 for the assignment/exam/project, and depending upon the severity of the offense, an F in the course. All examples of plagiarism or academic dishonesty and will be reported to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services for additional disciplinary action as outlined in the student handbook under the heading "academic integrity/Misconduct" (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-responsibilities/>).

Principles of Community

In this course we strive to follow and extend Colorado State's University's Principles of Community, and welcome spirited discussion, lively debate and pursuit of knowledge in a manner that respects each of us as individuals.

The Principles of Community support the Colorado State University mission and vision of access, research, teaching, service and engagement. A collaborative and vibrant community is a foundation for learning, critical inquiry, and discovery. Therefore, each member of the CSU community has a responsibility to uphold these principles when engaging with one another and acting on behalf of the University.

Inclusion: We create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community, including their various identities, skills, ideas, talents and contributions.

Integrity: We are accountable for our actions and will act ethically and honestly in all our interactions.

Respect: We honor the inherent dignity of all people within an environment where we are committed to freedom of expression, critical discourse, and the advancement of knowledge.

Service: We are responsible, individually and collectively, to give of our time, talents, and resources to promote the well-being of each other and the development of our local, regional, and global communities.

Social Justice: We have the right to be treated and the responsibility to treat others with fairness and equity, the duty to challenge prejudice, and to uphold the laws, policies and procedures that promote justice in all respects.

Mental Health statement: CSU is a community that cares for you. If you are struggling with drugs or alcohol and/or experiencing depression, anxiety, overwhelming stress or thoughts of hurting yourself or others please know there is help available. Counseling Services has trained professionals who can help. Contact 970.491.6053 or go to <http://health.colostate.edu>. If you are concerned about a friend or peer, tell someone at by calling 970.491.1350 to discuss your concerns with a professional who can discreetly connect the distressed individual with the proper resources (<http://supportandsafety.colostate.edu/tellsomeone>). Rams take care of Rams. Reach out and ask for help if you or someone you know is having a difficult time.

Sexual Assault and Violence Elimination: CSU's Student Sexual Harassment and Violence policy, following national guidance from the Office of Civil Rights, requires that professors follow CSU policy as a "mandatory reporter" of any personal disclosure of sexual harassment, abuse, and/or violence related experiences or incidents shared with the professor in person, via email, and/or in classroom papers or homework exercises. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of personal relational abuse, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. While professors are often able to help students locate appropriate channels of assistance on campus (e.g., see the CSU Health Network link below), disclosure by the student to the professor requires that the professor inform appropriate CSU channels to help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, even if the student requests that the disclosure not be shared. For counseling support and assistance, please see The CSU HEALTH NETWORK, which includes a variety of counseling services that can be accessed

at: <http://www.health.colostate.edu/>. And, The Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential resource for students that does not have a reporting requirement and that can be of great help to students who have experienced sexual assault. The web address is <http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support>.

Title IX: Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment:

CSU's Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Retaliation policy designates faculty and employees of the University as "Responsible Employees." This designation is consistent with federal law and guidance, and requires faculty to report information regarding students who may have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation. This includes information shared with faculty in person, electronic communications or in class assignments. As "Responsible Employees," faculty may refer students to campus resources (see below), together with informing the Office of Support and Safety Assessment to help ensure student safety and welfare. Information regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking and retaliation is treated with the greatest degree of confidentiality possible while also ensuring student and campus safety.

Any student who may be the victim of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation is encouraged to report to CSU through one or more of the following resources:

-Emergency Response 911

-Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Office of Support and Safety Assessment (970) 491-1350

-Colorado State University Police Department (non-emergency) (970) 491-6425

Please Visit: <http://oeo.colostate.edu/title-ix-sexual-assault> for more information.