

## APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

1 Submitted by College of Agriculture Date February 5, 2003

Department/Division offering course Agricultural Economics

2. Proposed designation and Bulletin description of this course:

(a) AEC 490 (b) Senior Seminar  
Prefix and number Title\*

(c) 3 (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
Lecture/Discussion hours per week Lab hours per week

(e) \_\_\_\_\_ (f) 3  
Studio hours per week Credits

Course description:

An integration of current issues in Agricultural Economics with oral and written communications, problem solving, and research. Major emphasis is on a senior paper and oral presentation.

Prerequisites (if any) Senior standing in Agricultural Economics

(i) May be repeated to a maximum of 0 (if applicable)

4. To be cross-listed as: \_\_\_\_\_  
Prefix and number Chairman's signature  
cross-listing department

5. Effective date Fall 2003

6. Course to be offered (a) X (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fall Spring Summer

7. Will the course be offered each year? Yes, less frequently  
(Explain if not annually)

8. Why is this course needed

To provide a capstone learning experience where the student integrates the principles and knowledge gained in previous courses in solving current economic problems.

\*NOTE: If the title is longer than 24 characters (including spaces), write a sensible title (not exceeding 24 characters) for use on transcripts.

9. (a) By whom will the course be taught? Department faculty  
(b) Are facilities for teaching the course now available? Yes  
If not, what plans have been made for providing them? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What enrollment may be reasonably anticipated? 50-55 per year in multiple sections

11. Will this course serve students in the Department primarily? Yes

Will it be of service to a significant number of students outside the Department?

No. If so, explain Open only to majors  
\_\_\_\_\_

Will the course serve as a University Studies Program course? No

If yes, under what area? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Check the category most applicable to this course:

Traditional, offered in corresponding departments elsewhere;

Relatively new, now being widely established;

X Not yet to be found in many (or any) other universities.

13. Is this course part of a proposed new program? No If yes, which?

14. Will adding this course change the degree requirements in one or more programs?\*

No. If yes, explain the change(s) below:

Already required by the Department and College. Has been taught under AEC 300: Special Topics in Agricultural Economics

15. Attach a list of the major teaching objectives of the proposed course and outline and/or reference list to be used.

16. If the course is a 100-200 level course, please submit evidence (e.g., correspondence) that the Community College System has been consulted.
17. Within the Department, who should be contacted for further information about the proposed course?

Name and phone extension: Loys Mather 7-7269

Signatures of Approval:

Department Chair:  Date: 3-7-03

Dean of the College:  Date: 3/6/03

Date of Notice to the Faculty: \_\_\_\_\_

*Undergraduate Council*  
 \*Undergraduate Council: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/1/03

\*University Studies: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Graduate Council: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Academic Council for the Med Center: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Senate Council: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Notice to University Senate: \_\_\_\_\_

ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

\*If applicable, as provided by the Rules of the University Senate.

## **Major Teaching and Learning Objectives**

1. Integrate topics covered in prior agricultural economics and support courses to reinforce common aspects and integrate ideas.
2. Enhance the students' skills in written and oral communications, problem solving, critical thinking, and research through the context of current issues in agriculture, the food system, natural resources, and rural communities.
3. Create student awareness of the ethical standards expected in the workplace.
4. Assist the student identify those skills and behaviors which contribute to a positive professional development.

## **Outline of Course Topics and Activities**

(Course meets Tuesdays/Thursdays)

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Week 1     | Organization of course; distribution of all major assignments; assignment of the first presentation dates     |
| Week 2-3   | Review: procedures for data collection/analysis; literature retrieval; preparing and writing a research paper |
| Week 4     | Issues and behaviors contributing to successful professional growth and development                           |
| Weeks 5-6  | Presentations on project proposals  |
| Week 7     | Business and professional ethics  |
| Weeks 8-15 | Oral presentations on senior papers   |

### **Evaluation/Grading**

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 35% | Oral Presentations  |
| 55% | Senior Paper  |
| 10% | Class participation/attendance, peer evaluation, other activities |

**SYLLABUS: AEC 490 (offered as AEC 300)**  
**SENIOR SEMINAR IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**  
**Fall 2002**

**Course Objectives**

1. Integrate topics covered in prior agricultural economics and support courses to reinforce common aspects and integrate ideas.
2. Enhance the student's skills in written and oral communications, problem solving, critical thinking, and research through the context of current issues in agriculture, the food system, natural resources, and rural communities.
3. Create student awareness of the ethical standards expected in the workplace.
4. Assist the student identify those skills and behaviors which contribute to a more productive professional development.

**Evaluation/Grading**

45%	Senior Paper
10	Progress/Punctuality on senior paper
35	Oral Presentations
10	Class participation (attendance, peer evaluation, and other activities)

**Class Activities**

1. Oral Presentations: see Standards for Senior Project/Paper
2. Senior Paper: see Standards for Senior Project/Paper
3. Progress/Punctuality: This consists of a timely submission of the progress points and submissions specified in the Fall 2002 Schedule
4. Class participation: Attendance will be taken on a regular basis. Attendance points will count double, however, for sessions involving student presentations.
5. Peer Evaluation: see Standards for Senior Project
6. Other Activities: These consist of submitting essays on some of the non-student presentations as well as submission of a resume, participation in a mock interview, etc

# STANDARDS FOR SENIOR PROJECT\*

Fall 2002

## A. TOPICS

The topic should be related to Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Rural Economic Development, Natural Resources, or Environmental Economics. These are broad areas and include production, finance, marketing, resource and policy problems. A list of suggested topics from faculty mentors will be distributed but students are encouraged to identify their own topics provided one of the potential mentors agrees to oversee the project. No two papers will be on the same topic unless the papers are addressing opposite positions on the topic. Students are free to utilize a team approach provided each participant's area of responsibility is clearly defined. The senior project might also involve development of a business plan. This option is provided this semester on an experimental basis and will be available for a limited number of projects.

## B. THE WRITTEN PAPER (First and Final drafts):

1. **LENGTH**: The paper from an individual student shall be no less than 10 pages or more than 15 typed pages exclusive of tables, figures, graphs, etc. The paper will be double-spaced with one inch margins and using no larger than a 12 point font in Word or WordPerfect. The submitted paper will also include a title page, abstract, appendix, works cited, bibliography, and at least two tables/charts. All tables and charts shall be included at the end of the paper. None of these items will be counted in the page requirements. Page length requirements for a team effort will be adapted to the size of the group. Papers less than the minimum length, whether first or second drafts, will not be accepted.
2. **TITLE PAGE**: The format and contents for the title page are specified in Appendix C
3. **ABSTRACT**: a 200-word abstract shall be typed on a separate page and shall immediately follow the title page.
4. **BIBLIOGRAPHY/WORKS CITED**: On a separate page, you will include your Works Cited list (a list of reference sources cited in your paper) and also a bibliography (a list of major sources useful in preparing your paper and related to your topic). Your works cited will include at least six sources, no less than four of which shall be traditional, published sources typically found in a library (books, journals, experiment station publications, etc.) Refer to Appendix B for standards concerning the works cited and the bibliography.
5. **THESIS/PROBLEM STATEMENT**: The central focus of your paper is your thesis (or problem statement). It will state the main idea or issue in your paper and will direct your research and analysis.

\* Adapted from the student paper competition of the SS-AAEA

6. **FORM/CONTENT:** The paper should follow the conventions established by the Student Section of the American Agricultural Economics Association (SS-AAEA) Student Paper Competition and will address:
  - a. Thesis or problem statement; Objectives
  - b. Literature Review
  - c. Methods
  - d. Empirical Results
  - e. Summary and Conclusions; Implications for further study
  
7. **EVALUATION:** Evaluation of the written paper will include grades on both the initial draft and the final draft, and will be determined by the student's mentor and the course instructors using the following criteria:
  - a. Statement of the problem and objectives (15%)
  - b. Proper use of economic concepts and data (20%)
  - c. Logic and conceptualization (10%)
  - d. Conclusions and implications drawn from the analysis (20%)
  - e. Writing style and clarity of presentation, including adherence to organization and content requirements (see B-1 and Appendixes A, B, and D). (25%)
  - f. Evidence of student creativity and originality (10%)
  
9. **GRADING:** The senior paper will count as 55% of your course grade (including points for timely submission of progress reports), weighted 1/3 from the initial grading and 2/3 from the final grading. The average grade on senior papers for Fall 2001 was 83% with 9 A's, 34 B's, 9 C's, and 2 D's.
  
10. **PUNCTUALITY:** Late papers will not be accepted unless the cause of the late submission rests with the mentor.

### **C. ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **1. Presentation on the Project Proposal**

The student will deliver a four minute oral proposal of the intended senior project. The purpose of this presentation is to persuade the audience (your peers and your mentor and other faculty and graduate students in the room) that this is a worthwhile and achievable project. The general topic must be approved by your mentor and the instructor prior to the presentation. A problem statement/thesis, a rationale explaining why this is a worthwhile project given its expected benefits, an outline of the proposed project, a preliminary list of references and data sources, and a suggested method of analysis must be presented. Your grade will be determined in part by how persuasive you are with your audience. Your peers will evaluate the merits of your proposal and will be encouraged to offer suggestions for improvement. This will be a professional presentation in terms of delivery, media, style, and personal appearance (traditional business attire). It will be recorded on video tape for self evaluation. This presentation will comprise 10% of your course grade and will be given October 3, 8, and 10.

Evaluation of the project proposal presentation will follow these criteria:

- a Content (25%)
- b Delivery (35%)
- c Overall effectiveness of argument/proposal (20%)
- d. Response to questions (10%)
- e Within time limits (10%)

## **2. Senior Presentation**

The student will deliver a 30 minute oral presentation on the senior paper on an assigned date. These presentations will begin November 12. This will be a professional presentation in terms of media, style, delivery, and traditional business attire. The department faculty will be invited to attend. Faculty mentors will be present on the date of your presentation. The presentation shall be between 20 and 25 minutes with 5 to 10 minutes allowed for discussion. Presentations which last beyond 25 minutes are subject to being stopped as time must be reserved for questions and discussion. This presentation will be recorded on video tape for self-evaluation. The senior presentation will count as 25% of your course grade. Evaluation of the oral presentation includes a variety of sources including mentor, faculty/graduate student facilitators, peers, instructor, and other faculty. Significant variability and inconsistency in evaluation will be resolved through consultation between the instructor and mentor.

Evaluation of this oral presentation will follow these criteria:

- a. Economic content (25%)
- b. Organization of material (10%)
- c. Delivery/Oral communication skills (25%)
- d. Supporting materials; Quality of transparencies/slides, computer graphics, etc. (20%)
- e. Response to questions (10%)
- f.. Presentation time: < 20 min = 0; 20-25 min = 10; 25-28 min = 5; >28 min = 0 (10%)

Evaluation of the oral presentation is from a variety of sources including mentor, faculty/graduate student facilitator, peers, course instructor, and other faculty members in attendance. Significant variability and inconsistency in evaluation of a presentation will be resolved by consultation of the mentor, instructor, and faculty/graduate student facilitator.

## **3. Peer Evaluation**

Class time will be provided for each student to make a preliminary senior presentation before two (or more) peers. Peer evaluators will use the same evaluation criteria as will be used by the audience during the senior presentation. Peer evaluation is in the best interests of each presenter for, if done properly, will undoubtedly improve the final presentation grade. Peer evaluations will count as a portion of your class participation grade.



#### **D. JOINT PROJECTS:**

Joint projects are allowed and encouraged. General guidelines for a joint effort will include:

1. Joint projects may be a combined, integrated effort or two coordinated efforts which separately address a common topic.
2. The project proposal presentations coming from a joint project must be of distinctly different aspects/components of the overall project.
3. A single outline of the paper will be acceptable but it must indicate who is responsible for each section.
4. The senior presentations for a two-person joint project will be on the same day and in the same section. The two persons may give two separate presentations of normal length, or a combined presentation (minimum 45 minutes with up to 20 minutes for questions and discussion). In the case of a combined presentation, each speaker will speak for at least 20 minutes.
5. The senior paper may be two separate documents or a combined paper. If a combined paper, all requirements are increased in proportion to the number of students working on the joint project (e.g. minimum length, number of references, etc.).
6. In the case of combined efforts, a single grade will be assigned to all students on the joint project.

#### **E. SCHEDULE for FALL 2002:**

<b>August 28</b>	Senior project/paper assigned
<b>September 12</b>	Select mentor and project title*
<b>September 19</b>	Submit problem statement/thesis and working outline*
<b>September 26</b>	Submit <i>working</i> bibliography and list of data sources*
<b>October 1</b>	Submit progress report on Project Proposal*
<b>October 3, 8, 10</b>	Oral presentations on project proposals (Class divided into three sections)
<b>October 15</b>	Class meets today from 6:30-9:30 with the AgriBusiness Club's Career Networking Reception and Dinner. This is in lieu of the regular class time. Approximate cost is \$18.
<b>October 24</b>	Submit progress report on senior paper and recent conferences with your mentor*

- November 5** Peer evaluations of your 30 minute oral senior presentation. Class will be divided into groups of three for peer evaluations.
- November 7** Three copies due of your PowerPoint and abstract of senior presentation. PowerPoint copies will be printed six charts per page, may be black and white. Bring to 413 Barnhart Bldg. These will be distributed to the graduate student and faculty evaluators and instructor for use during your oral presentation. You are responsible for delivering a copy to your mentor.
- November 12** Expected starting date for senior presentations (Class divided into three sections)
- November 12** Peer evaluations due from presenters  
Coordinator reports due from the peer evaluation sessions
- November 12** Senior papers due (two copies)
- November 27** Senior papers returned to students with preliminary grade.
- December 10** Final draft of senior papers due

\* Requires mentor's signature