

Department: Agricultural and Resource Economics

Course No: 150

Credits: 3

Title: Principles of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Contact: Linda Lee

Content Area: CA2-Social Sciences

Catalog Copy: 150. Principles of Agricultural and Resource Economics Either semester. Three credits. Taught concurrently with SARE 50. An introduction to agricultural and resource economics, the role of agriculture and resources in today's United States economic system, and relationships that regulate the entire economic environment.

Course Information: The course is designed around lectures (three per week) and textbook readings. Reading assignments are completed before class for the day assigned. Attending lectures is highly advised. There are two midterms during the semester and a final exam. They include both multiple-choice and short answer questions. Anything covered in the lecture or the book can be part of the examination. The course introduces students to ways in which individuals, groups, institutions, and societies behave and influence one another in the areas of food and agriculture as well as resources and the environment. It places particular emphasis on the presence of market failures and the role of the government in the food and fiber sector and in the preservation of the environment.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed: Meets at least two out of seven goals of general education. In ARE 150 students acquire intellectual breadth and versatility. Students master basic principles, concepts and ideas from history, economics, philosophy and political economy as they apply to the food and agricultural sector and the conservation and enhancement of resources and the environment.

In ARE 150 students build critical judgment abilities by learning to identify the nature and causes of problems facing the food and agricultural economy and resources and the environment. They also gain critical abilities by exploring the role of individuals, institutions and the government in providing solutions to the problems identified.

CA2 Criteria: Social Sciences

1. Introduces students to theories and concepts of the social sciences. ARE 150 introduces students to the principles of agricultural and resource economics, including markets and prices, agricultural and environmental policy, trade and globalization.

2. Introduces students to methods used in the social sciences, including the ethical problems social scientists face. Throughout the course students learn about methodologies most often used by agricultural and resource economists to acquire data (case studies, surveys, and experimental approaches) and to analyze economic issues (modeling, statistical analysis, decision theory). In

the process students also learn of the ethical dilemmas and analytical problems that social researchers encounter as they try to balance personal and public views in a democratic context and the difficulties that simultaneity presents in discovering causal linkages in society.

3. ARE 150 by emphasizing the role of food, agriculture and the environment is a natural subject for introducing students to the interaction of individuals, groups, institutions, or societies around the globe and the interaction of people with their environment.

4. Provide students with tools to analyze social political or economic groups/organizations (such as individuals, communities, or government) as they satisfy their needs for food, fiber and a clean environment. The course will also examine social issues and problems of economic and political power, hunger, and poverty as they apply to the individual, societal, cultural, national, and international level.

Role of Grad Students: Every semester this course is taught by regular faculty without any support of Teaching Assistants (TAs). If such support were to become available, a TA would assist the faculty member in grading, proctoring examinations, and schedule office hours to provide extra help to students who need it.