

**AAEC 1005**  
**Economics of the Food and Fiber System: Microeconomic Principles**

**Syllabus - Fall 2008**

**Instructor:** Tim Moore  
306B Hutcheson Hall  
231-9443, [mooretw@vt.edu](mailto:mooretw@vt.edu)  
Teaching Assistant: To be announced  
Secretary: Marilyn Echols – 322 Hutcheson (231-6846; call Tim first)

**Office Hours:** T & H 9:30 to 11:30 and by appointment

**Course Objectives:**

- Provide an overview of the study of Agricultural and Applied Economics and how it relates to a diverse food and fiber system
- Examine economic objectives of producers and consumers of food and fiber products
- Understand the interrelationships between the agricultural sector and the rest of the economy
- Illustrate the function and operation of markets
- Demonstrate and utilize microeconomic concepts to analyze contemporary economic issues

**Course Text:** *Microeconomics*, Krugman and Wells, Worth Publishers, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 2005.  
Text website: [www.worthpublishers.com/krugmanwells](http://www.worthpublishers.com/krugmanwells)

**Grades:** Final grades will be based on the averages of following grades:

Tests (3)	75%
Quizzes	15%
Problem Sets	10%

- Each test will correspond to each of the three main sections described in the course outline.
- Tests will typically consist of multiple choice, short answer and/or essay questions, and test dates will be announced in class at least one week prior to the exam.
- The last test will not be cumulative, and will be given during the scheduled time for the class during final exam week.
- Make-up tests are only given to students with an approved (by me) absence from a regular exam. I expect to be notified as soon as possible (usually in advance) when you know you must miss an exam. You will have a maximum of one week to make up an exam with an approved absence.
- This course follows University policy with respect to rescheduling final exams when there are conflicts/multiple scheduled exams.

## **Other Important Items:**

This class strictly adheres to the Virginia Tech University Honor Code system ([www.honorsystem.vt.edu](http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu)). Any unauthorized giving or receiving of aid, assistance, or unfair advantage in any form of academic work is prohibited.

If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability (learning disability, attention deficit disorder, psychological, physical, etc.) please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. It is up to you to make me aware of your needs.

This class will make extensive use of Blackboard. Grades, announcements, quizzes, surveys, etc., will all be available on Blackboard. Therefore, please be sure to enroll in Blackboard for this course and familiarize yourself with the system at the beginning of the semester. Blackboard is easily accessible from the “My VT” page.

This is a large class, therefore you will need to follow appropriate decorum to minimize class disruptions. Please be on time for class and refrain from side conversations with those around you during quiet times. I make a point to encourage discussions in class, and it is imperative that you do not speak when someone else (including me) has the floor. There will be ample opportunities for you to share your thoughts with the class. I also embrace diversity in the classroom, and this includes diversity of ideas and opinions. Additionally, since this is an Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness oriented class, I expect a high degree of professionalism throughout the semester. If you don't think you can conduct yourself as a professional, please wait until another semester before taking this course.

## **Course Topics:**

### Section 1: Basic Building Blocks

- Principles and Overview – Chapter 1
- Economic Models – Chapter 2
- Supply and Demand Basics – Chapters 3 and 4
- Elasticity – Chapter 5

### Section 2: Foundations of Supply and Demand

- Consumer/Producer Surplus – Chapter 6
- Supply Theory and Producer Behavior – Chapters 7, 8 and 9
- Demand Theory and Consumer Behavior – Chapters 10 and 11

### Section 3: Applications and Extensions

- Factor Markets – Chapter 12
- Monopoly and Oligopoly – Chapters 14 and 15
- International Topics – Chapter 17
- Other Topics - Notes

Note: The above is only an outline of broad areas we will explore during the semester. Other topics not specifically listed above will be covered in class as well as through additional resources outside of class.

