

**Agricultural Economics 590**  
**Fall 2003**

**Instructors:**

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**Description:**

The objectives of this course are to help students develop skills that will help them select and complete their thesis research, choose career paths, compete for jobs, and succeed as scholars. Topics include:

- Careers in public and private sectors in teaching, research, and outreach
- Writing, presenting, and critiquing scholarly work
- Choosing a thesis topic and conducting thesis research
- Job hunting, resume preparation, interviewing skills
- Proposal writing

**Requirements:**

Attendance and Participation: We expect regular attendance and frequent thoughtful participation in class discussion.

Proposal: Students will be required to write a 12 page proposal paper (excluding references). The proposal may be for a new class, a research project, or an outreach (extension) project. The proposal must:

- Identify agency to which you would be submitting the proposal.
- Have a problem statement establishing the need for the project. The problem statement must describe the academic and societal contributions of the project.
- Have a set of specific educational or research objectives (no more than three).
- Describe the methodology that will be used to achieve each of the objectives.
- Establish performance criteria that will be used to assess the success of the project.
- Establish a time line for required tasks.
- Provide a budget.

You are to provide a draft of the paper for review by a fellow student (to be assigned) by October 24. A final version is due for grading to us by last day of class. The papers must be typed in 12 point font, double spaced, and in good form. We are more concerned with the effectiveness of the scholarly communication than with the content, and will evaluate papers accordingly.

A one page prospectus for the proposal is due to us by October 3. We are willing to consider any proposal addressing issues in social science teaching, research, or outreach.

Presentation: Students will present their proposal to the class. You will have 10 minutes for the presentation. As with the written proposal, we are more concerned with the effectiveness of the scholarly communication than with the content of the presentation, and will evaluate your presentations accordingly. The presentation will occur after the draft written are complete and delivered to the assigned reviewers. The presentation schedule will be announced during the semester.

Review and Discussion: Students will provide a short written review of a colleague's draft proposal. The reviews are

due to us the last day of class. You should provide your review to your classmate in time to help them prepare the final draft of their proposal. We are looking for effective communication, and constructive comments, and suggestions for improvement.

In addition, you will provide a 3 minute verbal discussion of the paper you review on the same day that it is presented in class. We are again looking for effective communication, and constructive criticism, but we also want thoughtful comments that expand on what has been presented.

The contributions of these items to your grade are:

<u>Item</u>	<u>% of Grade</u>
Class participation	15%
Paper	25%
Presentation	25%
Written review	25%
Discussion	10%

**Schedule:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Presenter(s)</u>
9/5	Introduction/Overview	Dunn/Shortle
9/12	Research Scholarship	Shortle
9/19	Extension/Outreach Scholarship	Dunn
9/26	Teaching Scholarship	Prof. Tim Kelsey and Tasha Snyder
10/3	Writing a Thesis	Dunn
10/10	Study Day - No Classes	
10/17	Giving Presentations *Term paper proposals due	Dunn
10/24	Publishing	Shortle
10/31	Constructive criticism of written research; serving as a discussant and seminar participant	Prof. Richard Ready
11/7	Job hunting *Draft term papers due to reviewers	Assistant Professor Panel
11/14	Grant writing	Prof. Diane McLaughlin
11/21	Working for the Government	Dr. William Wheeler, US EPA
11/26-28	Thanksgiving break	
12/5	Student Presentations	
12/12	Student Presentations (TERM PAPER DUE)	