

ACE 341 AMM
Issues & Careers in Applied Econ | Agribusiness Markets & Management
Course Syllabus
Fall 2020, first 8 weeks

1 credit hour
MW, 1:30-2:20 pm
Online with Zoom and Compass

Instructor:

Lauren Karplus lkarp12@illinois.edu
304 C Mumford Hall

Office Hours: Thurs. 4-5pm via Zoom

Email me or schedule an appointment here for another time :

<https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=16547378&calendarID=3313021>

Course Description:

This course provides a preview of professional development and career opportunities in Agribusiness Markets & Management and related fields. Through an in-depth dialogue with industry professionals, students will develop an understanding of the skill sets needed to succeed in the different career paths discussed. This class is best suited for sophomores and juniors who are beginning to explore the different career paths associated with the Agribusiness industry.

Objectives:

This course is designed to:

- introduce students to a wide range of career opportunities in the *Agribusiness Markets & Management* field;
- develop an understanding of the skill sets needed to succeed in the different career paths;
- develop communication skills appropriate for a professional environment; and
- examine common academic and credentialing pathways in the Agribusiness industry.

Class Format and Participation:

Many class sessions consist of presentations by and interactions with guest speakers from various professional sectors. The speakers will discuss their career experiences and the opportunities available in their companies and industries. Through their descriptions of various career paths and approaches for starting a career, these guests can be important resources in your own professional development.

Each class meeting is scheduled for 50 minutes, equivalent to 2 contact hours per week. Since this class offers only 1 hour of academic credit, the class will meet only part of the semester (first 8 weeks). Our last class meeting is Wednesday, October 14th.

Grading Summary

- 1.) **Attendance/Active Participation**- Every class meeting will have 2 points available for attendance for a total of 30 points. I will randomly select several students each class to give us a quick verbal summary and their thoughts on that week's reading. You receive 1 point for attending each class and 1 point for participation (chat, questions, answering my oral quizzes).
- 2.) **1 Paragraph Reflections on Discussion Board**- Per the schedule below, there are 5 one paragraph reflections due in the Compass discussion board sporadically throughout the course. The reflections are due before class starts on the date they are due. These are worth 4 points each for a total of 20 points. You may choose to respond to a classmate's post to respectfully discuss or debate their reflection on some of the weeks instead of posting an original posting, if you choose. Be sure to include a link to the original content you are reflecting on in your submissions.
- 3.) **Mock Interview** – you are required to complete one mock interview this semester using BigInterview: <https://illinois.biginterview.com/> and submit to me for review.
- 4.) **Career Fair** – You are required to participate in either the ACES Career Fair, September 24th or the Business Career Fair September 17th or 18th (17th for full-time jobs, 18th for internships). *Note: an alternative assignment is available if you do not wish to attend. Contact me about that. Professional attire is very strongly advised, and resumes should be ready to hand out. You must turn in a typed, 1-page reflection summary listing the companies/employers you visited, what you learned, and thoughts about how to be successful in the career fair context.
- 5.) **Thank You Notes** - You will be assigned 1 guest speaker to whom you will write a thank you email, which you will send first to me for review at lkarp12@illinois.edu. After my approval, I will give you their email address and ask that you cc me into your thank-you email to them. You are welcome to write thank you notes to all speakers if you wish. This is a great habit to adopt.
- 6.) **Final Paper** - In the first class, you will complete a profile sheet outlining your career objectives and planned academic path. Near the end of the course, I will return these sheets and you will write a 2-3 page paper summarizing what you learned and how your objectives and academic plans have changed as a result.

The +/- grading system will be used. Illinois Compass will be used to store and retrieve grades. You can access Illinois Compass at <https://compass.uiuc.edu>.

Class	Date	Poss Pts	Readings/Assignments Due and Guest Speakers
1	8/24/20		Syllabus, assignments, benchmarking goals, Zoom etiquette DUE (during class): goals worksheet- will be submitted during class
2	8/26/20	2	Email Etiquette and Networking Overview Read: Ask a Manager Blog- https://www.askamanager.org/ Pick 5 questions and answers that interest you
3	8/31/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: Handshake and Career Fair Read: "How to Prepare for an Interview" PDF on Compass DUE: 1 paragraph reflection on favorite tools learned from interview reading in Compass Discussion
4	9/2/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: Career Center Read: Ask a Manager Blog- Pick 5 questions and answers that interest you DUE: 1 paragraph reflection on what you've learned from the Ask A Manager blog.
	9/7/20		LABOR DAY- NO CLASS
5	9/9/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: Farm Management Watch: TED Talk on Organizational Psychology: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyXRYgjQXX0 DUE: 1 paragraph reflection on TED Talk
6	9/14/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: Food Company Sales Read: Explore LinkedIn and use LinkedIn for internship/job hunting- find 3 internships or jobs you are interested in
7	9/16/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: Graduate Degrees Other topics: Things to consider when deciding to go to graduate school, public versus private sector Read: O*Net: Search for several careers you are interested in: https://www.onetonline.org/find/ DUE: 1 paragraph reflection on what you searched for and discovered on O*Net and LinkedIn searches
8	9/21/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: Food Company Sales Read about data on implicit bias or diversity in the workplace: https://www.trueofficelearning.com/blog/unconscious-bias-in-the-workplace-what-it-costs-your-bottom-line AND https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2012/07/12/11900/the-top-10-economic-facts-of-diversity-in-the-workplace/ DUE: 1 paragraph reflection on Diversity article and Implicit Bias article
9	9/23/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: Grain company Read: Podcast on Tone in Job Interviews, or read transcript of podcast here: https://www.askamanager.org/transcript-of-tone-in-job-interviews
10	9/28/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: AgCo (Misha Shah and Anthony McCullough)

			DUE: Career Fair Assignment
11	9/30/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: Commodities trading and rail supply logistics Read: Ask a Manager- 5 questions and answers that interest you
12	10/5/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: Food sales Read: LinkedIn Graduates blog post: https://blog.linkedin.com/2019/may/9/the-2019-linkedin-grads-guide-to-getting-hired
13	10/7/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: Banking Read: Effective Immediately on Google Books preview, pages 3-27: https://books.google.com/books?id=9l15Vl8q_-IC&pg=PA3&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false
14	10/12/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: HR careers and Seed Sales
15	10/14/20	2	GUEST SPEAKER: Farm Banking DUE: Final Paper
SUMMARY OF GRADED WORK IS AS FOLLOWS:			
Attendance/Active Participation	30	DUE: Each class	
Reflections (5)	20	DUE: As written above	
Mock Interview	10	DUE: Any time before 10/7/20	
Career Fair Assignment	15	DUE: 9/28	
Thank You Notes	5	DUE: When assigned	
Final Paper	20	DUE: 10/14/20	
Total Points Possible	100		

Professionalism

In this class, you are expected to present and conduct yourself in a professional manner. This includes professional appearance, professional interaction, thoughtful speaking, active listening, and effective writing. Your assignments will be graded on overall quality, including proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, style, and the respect, courtesy, and engagement with which you interact with others.

Academic Integrity

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign *Student Code* should also be considered as a part of this syllabus. Students should pay particular attention to Article 1, Part 4: Academic Integrity. Read the Code at the following URL: <http://studentcode.illinois.edu/>. Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade. Every student is expected to review and abide by the Academic Integrity Policy: <http://studentcode.illinois.edu/>. Ignorance is not an excuse for any academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read this policy to avoid any misunderstanding. Do not hesitate to ask the instructor(s) if you are ever in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, or any other breach of academic integrity.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the as soon as possible. To ensure that disability-related concerns are properly addressed from the beginning, students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class should contact Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) and see the instructor as soon as possible. If you need accommodations for any sort of disability, please speak to me after class, or make an appointment to see me, or see me during my office hours. DRES provides students with academic accommodations, access, and support services. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TDD), or e-mail a message to disability@uiuc.edu. <http://www.disability.illinois.edu/>.

Emergency Response Recommendations

Emergency response recommendations can be found at the following website: <http://police.illinois.edu/emergency/>. I encourage you to review this website and the campus building floor plans website within the first 10 days of class. <http://police.illinois.edu/emergency/floorplans/>.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Any student who has suppressed their directory information pursuant to *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) should self-identify to the instructor to ensure protection of the privacy of their attendance in this course. See <http://registrar.illinois.edu/ferpa> for more information on FERPA.

Campus Emergency Dean and Absence Policy

Please review the revised student Code of Conduct related to class attendance as these policies could significantly affect your decision to miss class based on what type of circumstance you are experiencing. (Article 1, part 5):

http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1_part5_1-501.html