

COURSE OUTLINE

Microcomputers in Agriculture

Course Description

AG 107. Microcomputers in Agriculture. 3 hours credit. This course introduces the student to the various uses of microcomputers in agriculture and ag-related areas. Emphasis is placed on application of microcomputer technology to agriculture business planning, record keeping, problem solving and general management decisions. Basic computer functions are included.

Course Relevance

This course will open the eyes of students wishing to prepare themselves for a future in the agriculture world. It will give the student practical computer skills that can be utilized in daily work related to the classroom and ultimately their careers.

Required Materials

AG 107 Microcomputers in Ag. No Text Required

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to

1. Understand basic computer functions
2. Skillfully utilize Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and various programs
3. Utilize the internet for research and career opportunities

Primary Learning PACT Skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in this course

Through the student's involvement in this course, he/she will develop his/her ability in the following primary PACT skill areas:

1. Computer Literacy
 - The student will develop the skills necessary for basic computer use in an agriculture based operation.
2. Field-Related Technology
 - The student will develop the skills necessary to utilize specific ag-based software.

Secondary skills (developed but not documented):

- Teamwork
- Writing
- Reading
- Listening
- Nonverbal Communication
- Internet Use

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcomes and the primary Learning PACT skills will be demonstrated by

1. Completion of computer assignments in the various common programs. (computer literacy)
2. Completion of various assignments in specific ag-based programs and internet site research. (field related technology)

Course Content

- I. Themes – Key recurring concepts that run throughout this course:
 - A. Basic computer application
 - B. Ag-related computer application
- II. Issues – Key areas of conflict that must be understood in order to achieve the intended outcome:
 - A. Microsoft Word
 - B. Microsoft Excel
 - C. Microsoft Powerpoint
 - D. Cowsense program
- III. Concepts – Key concepts that must be understood to address the issues:
 - A. Importance of each program
 - B. Proper data input
 - C. Daily use
 - D. Terminology of the course
- IV. Skills/Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Computer literacy
 - B. Internet use
 - C. Listening
 - D. Reading
 - E. Writing
 - F. Critical thinking
 - G. Application of oncepts

Learning Units

- I. Basic skills
 - A. Understanding my computer
 - B. Power features
 - C. Finding the proper program
- II. Microsoft Word
 - A. Importance
 - B. Usage
 - C. Unique features
- III. Microsoft Excel
 - A. Importance
 - B. Usage

C. Unique features

IV. Microsoft Powerpoint

A. Importance

B. Usage

C. Unique features

V. Ag-based specialty programs

Learning Activities

Lecture, instructor-led class assignments, group study, various audio/visual aids and student presentations.

Grade Determination

The student will be graded on completion of exams, quizzes, homework and in-class assignments, class participation, and other methods of evaluation at the discretion of the instructor.