

SYLLABUS

ARE 132:

UC Davis, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Winter Quarter 2021

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Cooperative Business Enterprises

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***Covid 19 Update:** I am here to support your learning throughout this quarter and help in any way I can during these challenging times! Please read all the information provided here carefully and reach out with any additional questions and concerns*

Course overview:

This course introduces students to cooperatives and other collaborative forms of business. You will learn about the role of cooperatives in market-oriented economies and familiarize yourself with fundamentals of operations including governance, financing, distribution of benefits, and related legislation. While coops evoke social and political connotations, we will focus on cooperatives as economic organizations. We will mostly discuss agricultural and grocery cooperatives as well as related collaborative structures (e.g. marketing orders, CSAs, and food hubs). However, principles of cooperative behavior are quite similar across different industries such that students interested in non-agricultural cooperatives may benefit from this course as well.

Guest speakers will share their experiences working in cooperative settings as well as challenges they face throughout the quarter. Internship opportunities will be posted as they become available [via this website](#) as well.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this quarter you will have a basic understanding of the

1. **fundamentals of cooperative business enterprises.**
2. key economic functions of cooperatives.
3. conditions amenable to cooperative structures.
4. experiences shared by professionals working in cooperative businesses.

How this course works:

The course material is designed to support the above stated learning objectives. All required readings as well as additional resources are made available on Canvas. **Please familiarize yourself with assigned readings prior to attending live Zoom lectures** (or watching Zoom videos). I will discuss important points and add context in lectures. **Engagement with the material is essential to your success and learning outcome in this course.** How much you chose to engage will influence what you learn. The following scenario provides some guidance regarding the engagement level the course design is based on:

Desired level of engagement (deep learning): You read the required chapters/articles prior to attending or watching Zoom lectures. You consistently attend/watch lectures, reflect on the material, and are actively engaged in group discussions, exercises and the completion of the final project throughout the quarter. You are continuously asking questions to complement your learning.

Live Zoom lectures and student hours:

I will teach lectures live via Zoom. We will have a 5 minute break at 1 pm to get up and stretch and use the last half hour to discuss the covered material and additional questions. In the second half of the class, we will schedule short presentations of final projects during that time as well. I will also hold additional student hours on Zoom. You can join them using the **Zoom tab on Canvas**. Videos of held lectures will be made available via the Zoom tab. I will further make lecture slides available on Canvas (including a note taking

version for lecture slides). I will post them prior to lectures and recommend downloading these onto your computer or printing them. Please be aware of the copyright protection of all my materials shared and also refer to Zoom Etiquette page on Canvas.

Graded Assignments, Projects, and Exams:

Quizzes:

We will have one weekly pre-lecture quiz posted on the Quizzes tab on Canvas. You will have to complete this quiz before each Tuesday lecture (it will be available 24 hours prior).¹ This quiz tests whether you read the required textbook chapters for each week. **There will be a total of 7 quizzes and I will drop your two lowest quiz scores in computing your final grade.**

Zoom participation (iClicker Reef App):

In addition, you will be able to actively participate and test your understanding by responding to questions using the iClicker Reef App during live Zoom lectures and sections. In order to do so, please complete the iClicker Reef App assignment posted on Canvas by the end of the first week of classes. I will ask questions throughout live lectures and randomly choose one question to **assign up to two participation points for each lecture. You will receive one point if you submitted an answer and an additional point if you submitted the correct answer.** While you can receive more participation points by the end of the quarter, 30 points will count as a 100% participation score towards your final grade. This censured scoring allows you to learn from answering questions incorrectly, miss a few lectures, or encounter technical difficulties. **No additional adjustments are made to your participation score.**²

Journal entries:

I want you to keep a *journal* or regularly reflect on the material covered each week and ask you to submit select journal entries (or short reflections) as an assignment each week. These assignments give you an opportunity to **reflect on your learning and provide feedback on the assigned readings, lectures, sections, and additional information posted from each week.** You can also discuss **ideas related to each week's material** in preparation for your final project. You can also share additional examples or sources that relate to the material covered each week, **and submit your reflections in alternative formats (e.g. upload a picture of hand-written notes, draw a diagram, record yourself or relevant content).** Journal entries will be graded on effort and I will do my best to provide comments and feedback. I will also incorporate select entries during lectures the following weeks. **You have to turn in at least six weekly journal entries electronically by midnight each Friday (see Canvas assignments posted). If you turn in more, your six highest scores will count towards your final grade.**

Final project:

In order to apply the learned material throughout the quarter, **you will complete a business case study on a cooperative business of your choice.** Additional information regarding this project will be provided in a separate handout and throughout the quarter. I encourage you to think about this early and seek continuous feedback from me.

Exams:

There will be one midterm on Thursday, January 28th during lecture. The final will be held during the scheduled final exam time on Thursday, March 18th at 6pm.

Please check the assignment and exam schedule and add those dates to your calendar. If your responsibilities or circumstances interfere with the successful completion of the graded assignments beyond what is already stated above, please reach out ASAP such that I can verify your circumstance (documentation will be

¹ We will not have a pre-lecture quiz during the first week and during the week of the midterm.

² If you are not able to join the live lectures at the scheduled time or continue to experience connectivity issues, you can choose to opt out of this participation part of your grade altogether. If you decide to do so, please contact me via email before the midterm. In this case, all other assignments receive a higher weight in your overall grade.

required) and **excuse you from the missed assignment, quiz or exam (I do not give make-up quizzes or exams)**. Your final grade will be based solely on the remaining assignments.

If you are unsure if your situation warrants this additional accommodation, please ask. In the past, in addition to athlete schedules, I have made these accommodations for family emergency situations (e.g. death or sickness), extraordinary circumstances (e.g. economic and social distress), job obligations (one-time responsibilities that cannot be rescheduled) and professional opportunities (e.g. job interviews or conference attendance).

Prerequisites:

ECN 001A (C- or better) or ECN 001AV(C- or better); UWP 104A or UWP 104AY or UWP 101 (recommended)

Required:

There is no comprehensive textbook on cooperatives that is currently in print. Instead, we will use two primary sources posted on Canvas:

Cooperatives: Principles and practices in the 21st century. Kimberly A. Zeuli and Robert Cropp, University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension, A1457.

An Introduction to Cooperation and Mutualism. Michael Boland, University of Minnesota (2017).

Additional journal articles are posted on Canvas as well. I will provide guidance regarding what to focus on when reading these.

iclicker Cloud (Reef) App

Recommended:

Coops 101: An Introduction to Cooperatives. USDA, Report 55 (2012, posted on Canvas)

Research on the Economic Impact of Cooperatives. University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives (2009, posted on Canvas)

State of Worker's Cooperatives in the U.S., Democracy at Work Institute and the U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives (2017, posted on Canvas))

Food Co-ops in America: Communities, Consumption, and Economic Democracy, Anne Mais Knupfer (2013, posted on Canvas)

What happened to the Berkeley Coop? A Collection of Opinions. Center for Cooperatives (1992, posted on Canvas)

Everything for Everyone: The Radical Tradition that is Shaping the Next Economy, Nathan Schneider. Nation Books (2018)

Humanizing the Economy: Co-operatives in the Age of Capital, John Restakis, New Society Publishers (2010)

Collective Courage: A History of African American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice, Jessica Gordon Nembhard, The Pennsylvania State University (2014)

American Cooperatives—Where they come from, what they do, where they are going, Jerry Voorhis, Harper and Brothers (1961)

Cooperatives in Agriculture, David Cobia, Person (1989)

Grades:

Your final numerical score will be calculated based on your **participation and reflections, quizzes, group project, midterm and final exam**. Numerical scores will not be converted to letter grades until the end of the quarter and specific letter grades will not be assigned to individual assignments. The final score breakdown and grade distribution is as follows:

Quizzes	12.5%	(50 points)
Participation	7.5%	(30 points)
Journal Entries	15%	(60 points)
Group Project	15%	(60 points)
Midterm	25%	(100 points)
Final	<u>25%</u>	<u>(100 points)</u>
	100%	(400 points)

Percent	Points	Grade
93 – 100%	400 – 372	A
90 – 92%	371 – 360	A-
87 – 89%	359 – 348	B+
83 – 86%	347 – 332	B
80 – 82%	331 – 320	B-
77– 79%	319 – 308	C+
73– 76%	307 – 292	C

Lectures:	T/R	12:10 – 2:00pm, Zoom (see Canvas for direct link)
Student hours:	M	6:00 –7:00pm, Zoom (see Canvas for direct link)
	F	8:00 – 9:00am, Zoom (see Canvas for direct link)

Please note that the chosen times allow students in different time zones to join as well. You will be able to socialize and work with others in breakout rooms during those times, and/or ask me anything you would like. Please come with questions or identify areas you want to talk about. I am happy to talk and provide feedback, advise you on anything we cover in class, or have a more personal conversation and provide advice as best as I can. I will, however, not prepare and present additional course material during those times.

Tentative schedule:

Week	Subject	Required Readings
Week 1 (T 1/5, R 1/7)	Course Logistics and Introduction	<i>Frank et al 1993, Zeuli and Cropp, Chapter 1</i>
Week 2 (T 1/12, R 1/14)	History and Role of Cooperatives	Zeuli and Cropp, Chapter 2
Week 3 (T 1/19, R 1/21)	Economic Theory of Cooperatives	Boland, Chapter 1 <i>Hueth (2014)</i> <i>Sexton and Sexton (1987)</i>
Week 4 (T 1/26 , R 1/28) Midterm: 1/28	Decision Making in Cooperatives	Boland, Chapter 2
Week 5 (T 2/2, R 2/4)	Financing Cooperatives	Zeuli and Cropp, Chapter 7 Boland, Chapter 3
Week 6 (T 2/9, R 2/11)	Taxation	<i>Sexton and Sexton (1986)</i>
Week 7 (T 2/16, R 2/18)	Legislation and Institutions relevant to Cooperatives <i>Dan Arnett, Placerville Food Co-op</i>	Zeuli and Cropp, Chapter 3
Week 8 (T 2/23, R 2/25)	Challenges and Opportunities <i>Mel Macadano, Director, Member Relations, Blue Diamond</i>	Boland, Chapter 4 <i>Cook (1995)</i>
Week 9 (T 3/2, R 3/4)	New Approaches to Cooperatives <i>Gina Chmielewski & Hayley Kaae, Farm Credit Administration; Brett Lauppe, CoBank</i>	Zeuli and Cropp, Chapter 8 Boland, Chapter 4
Week 10 (T 3/9, R 3/11) Business case study due: 3/11	Keys to Cooperative Success <i>Jessica Nelson, Golden State Power Cooperative; E. Kim Coontz, Executive Director, California Center for Cooperative Development</i>	Zeuli and Cropp, Chapter 9 <i>Hardesty (2005)</i>
Final Exam: 3/18 6pm		The final is cumulative

Academic Conduct:

You are an active member of the UC Davis campus and essential in our efforts to create a fair and honest community. Please review the [Code of Academic Conduct](#). Familiarize yourself with your rights and responsibilities as you are required to acknowledge them for each of your courses. I encourage you to work together as I strongly believe it supports the learning process. **However, your submitted quiz and exam answers need to be your own, and any sources used in the preparation of your group project need to be properly cited** (Please refer to [additional information on proper citation](#)). **Any violation will result in you receiving no credit for the assignment or exam in question, and me reporting the incident to the Office of Student Support & Judicial Affairs.**

Copyright: My lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, **quizzes and exams**, assignments, and additional handouts, are protected by U.S. copyright law and by University policy. I am the exclusive owner of the copyright in those materials I create. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own use to support your learning. You may also share those materials with other students who are enrolled in or auditing this course **except when taking quizzes and exams. You may not reproduce, distribute or display (post/upload) lecture notes, recordings, quizzes and exams**, and all other

course materials **in any other way — whether or not a fee is charged — without my expressed prior written consent.** You also may not allow others to do so. **Any violation will result in me reporting the incident to the Office of Student Support & Judicial Affairs.**

Courtesy:

As a courtesy to your fellow students and me, please be on time for online lectures and sections. Make sure your microphone is muted and raise your hand if you have a question. I will then unmute you and allow you to ask a question. Please also refer to additional information posted on Canvas regarding Zoom etiquette.

When interacting with your classmates, please be respectful. UC Davis is a diverse community comprised of individuals having many perspectives and identities. We are all under additional stress during these unusual times and in this together. In order to create an inclusive and intellectually vibrant community, we must understand and value individual differences and common ground. The [UC Davis Principles of Community](#) reflect the commitment I seek to uphold.

Disabilities:

If you have a learning disability or a physical disability that requires accommodation, please let me know as soon as possible. I will accommodate all needs that have been verified through the [Student Disability Center](#).

These are unusual circumstances and challenging times. I hope you all stay healthy, safe, and sane. I will do my best to make this an interactive and enjoyable class and wish you a successful quarter.