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. Furthermore, 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.

Lectures:
I will teach lectures in person (or live via Zoom). Please familiarize yourself with assigned readings prior to attending lectures. I will post lecture slides prior to lectures each week (including a note taking version) and encourage you to take notes throughout lectures. I will also hold additional student (office) hours on Zoom during which you can ask me questions. Recordings of lectures will be made available on Canvas in case you cannot attend lectures or want to review the material.

Lecture 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 in lectures. Please make sure you are registered (using your UC Davis information). I will ask questions throughout lectures and randomly choose one question to assign up to two points for each lecture (or section). You will receive one point if you submitted an answer (participation point) and an additional point if you submitted the correct answer. Receiving at least 30 points will count as a 100% participation score towards your final grade. Please note that it is possible to receive more than 40 points by end of the quarter. This cut-off scoring allows you to learn
from answering questions incorrectly, miss a few lectures, or encounter technical difficulties without incurring any final grading penalty. **No additional adjustments are made to your participation score.**

**Additional Assignments 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). This quiz tests whether you read the required texts 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.**

**Weekly reflections:**

I want you to keep a journal or regularly reflect on the material covered each week and ask you to submit your entry 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, including additional examples or sources that relate to the material covered each week. Journal entries can be submitted in whatever format you feel most comfortable in when expressing your thoughts (e.g. **upload a picture of your hand-written reflection, draw a diagram, record yourself or relevant content**). Journal entries will be graded on effort and I (and my TA’s) will provide comments and feedback for each of your submission. I will also incorporate select entries during lectures the following weeks. **Please turn in at least six journal entries over the course of the quarter. Each entry is due by midnight on 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 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 and a final. The midterm will be given on Thursday, January 27th during lecture. The final will be held during the scheduled final exam time on Thursday, March 17th at 6pm.**

Please add assignments and exams to your calendar. If other responsibilities or circumstances interfere with the successful completion of graded assignments, please reach out ASAP such that I can verify your circumstance (documentation will be required) and **excuse you from missed quizzes or exam. I do not give make-up assignments.** Your final grade will be based solely on the remaining assignments.

If you are unsure if your situation warrants this additional accommodation, please ask me. In the past, in addition to athlete schedules, I have made these accommodations for family emergencies (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).

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1 You can choose to opt out of the participation score 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 when computing your overall grade.

2 We will not have a pre-lecture quiz during the first week, midterm week, and last week.
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 and working drafts versions of select chapters for a new Handbook on Cooperatives and Mutuals (currently edited) are posted on Canvas as well.

**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)


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


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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>(50 points)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>(30 points)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Entries</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(60 points)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(60 points)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>(100 points)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>(100 points)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>(400 points)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

%  | 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 10:00 – 11:50am, Wellman 234
Student (office) hours: R 8:00 – 10:00am, Zoom (see Canvas for direct link)

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.

Canvas discussions tab: You can use this Canvas feature to reach out with additional questions and concerns. Please only use my email for personal questions or concerns that cannot be shared or discussed publically.
### Tentative Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Required Readings (articles in italics)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (T 1/4, R 1/6)</td>
<td>Introduction and Course Logistics; History and Role of Cooperatives</td>
<td><em>Frank et al 1993</em> (optional), Zeuli and Cropp, Chapter 1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 (T 1/11, R 1/13)</td>
<td>Economic Theory of Cooperatives I</td>
<td>Boland, Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 (T 1/18, R 1/20)</td>
<td>Economic Theory of Cooperatives II</td>
<td><em>Hueth (2014)</em>, <em>Sexton and Sexton (1987)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 (T 1/25, R 1/27)</td>
<td>Decision Making in Cooperatives</td>
<td>Boland, Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm: 1/27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zeuli and Cropp, Chapter 3 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 (T 2/1, R 2/3)</td>
<td>Financing; U.S. laws and regulation</td>
<td>Boland, Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carl Hoff/BUCRA (2/1)</td>
<td>Zeuli and Cropp, Chapter 3 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 (T 2/8, R 2/10)</td>
<td>Challenges and Opportunities; <em>Agricultural Cooperatives, Marketing orders and agreements</em></td>
<td>Zeuli and Cropp, Chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kim Coontz/CCCD (2/10)</td>
<td>Boland, Chapter 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vince Manchese/Davis Food Co-op (2/15); Ben Goudie, Blue Diamond Growers (2/17)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8 (T 2/22, R 2/24)</td>
<td>Marketing Cooperatives</td>
<td>Kiesel et al (2021)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jessica Nelson/Golden State Power (2/22) Brett Lauppe/CoBank (2/24)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9 (T 3/1, R 3/3)</td>
<td>Consumer Cooperatives; Worker Cooperatives</td>
<td>Plakias and Entsminger (2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gina Chmielewski/Farm Credit Administration (3/1); Prasanna Regmi/National Co-op Grocers (3/3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10 (T 3/8, R 3/10)</td>
<td>Business case study due: 3/10</td>
<td>Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam: 3/17 6pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>The final is cumulative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The listed journal articles may be difficult to understand upon a first read. You are not expected to comprehend all details discussed. Additional discussion during lecture and repeated reading of these articles will allow you to better understand main points.

### 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 this [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.

Diversity and Inclusion: UC Davis is a diverse community comprised of individuals having many perspectives and identities. Our department is committed to playing a vital role in increasing diversity in our discipline and I strive to create a learning environment that both supports the
diversity of thoughts, perspectives, and experiences and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). However, as the economics profession is home to disproportionately few historically underrepresented minority groups and women, I acknowledge that there may be biases in the course materials due to the lens with which they were written and presented. Please reach out and share any concerns or suggestions you might have in attempting to correct these.

For more information on our commitment to recognize and nurture talent and achievement by supporting diversity and equal opportunity in education, see: ARE DIRECT Program, UCD Principles of Community, UCD Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and UCD Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Vision.

UC Davis Land acknowledgement:
We should take a moment to acknowledge the land on which we are gathered. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.

Disabilities:
If you have a learning disability or any other 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.

Copyright: My lectures and course materials, including lecture 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 are 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.

These are 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.