

**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS 496A  
HONORS RESEARCH METHODS  
FALL 2006**

**Honors Program Director**

Dr. Christine Wilson  
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**Assistant**

Marsha Pritchard  
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Monday thru Friday 8:00 am–2:30 pm; (Lunch 12:30-1:00 pm)

**Office Hours**

I will generally maintain an “open door” policy, so you are welcome to come by any time with questions, but if you do want to ensure that I will be available, I suggest making an appointment. Due to my course teaching schedule, I am generally not available Tuesday/Thursday 8:00-10:30 am and 12:00-5:00 pm, or Wednesday 10:00-11:30 am and 12:00-5:00 pm. Marsha Pritchard will know my daily availability, so you may check with her. If you call or stop by and I am not available, please leave a message, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. You may also contact me by e-mail. I generally respond as soon as possible and within a short amount of time.

**Course Meetings**

Wednesday, 10:30-11:20 a.m. in Krannert 680

**Required Text**

Ethridge, D.E. *Research Methodology in Applied Economics*, Blackwell Publishing, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2004.

**Optional Text**

Booth, W.C., G.G. Colomb, and J.M. Williams, *The Craft of Research*, University of Chicago Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2003.

**Course Objectives**

1. Provide students with an appreciation for the process of conducting economic research;
2. Introduce students to departmental research faculty and potential research topics;
3. Assist students in developing a research plan of work for their honors projects;
4. Provide a forum for discussion of honors students’ project progress and problems.

### **Method of Instruction**

The instruction will consist of:

1. discussions;
2. guest speakers;
3. weekly assignments;
4. project identification, plan of work, program paperwork.

### **Discussions and Guest Speakers**

Discussions and guest speakers will introduce students to some faculty, their research, potential research projects, and the process of conducting economic research. These will also provide the opportunity to discuss the honors program, project progress, and problems.

### **Assignments**

You will have reading assignments and often written or activity-based assignments. In most cases, assignments should be completed before the start of the class period on the date due. Reading assignments must be complete so that we can effectively discuss the material. You will have some responsibility assigned in these discussions.

Other written assignments may be accepted late, however, the score may be penalized one letter grade or more. Please make sure your assignments are legible and organized.

### **Project Identification, Plan of Work, Program Paperwork**

You will identify an area of research, a potential research topic, and a faculty project advisor. You will develop a research plan of work for your honors project and will complete important honors program paperwork. These are major assignments and will be due no later than the last day of class. Not completing the project identification, plan of work, and program paperwork will result in an "F" grade.

### **Attendance**

You are expected to attend class. If you cannot attend class, a written explanation must be turned in to me prior to your absence. If you cannot notify me in advance due to unforeseen circumstances, then your written explanation is due by 4:00 pm Friday of that week. All explanations will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Three absences will result in an "F" grade.

### **Evaluation**

You will be evaluated on your completion of assignments (i.e., completing assignments, completing assignments on time, quality of completed assignment), your attendance at weekly sessions, and your participation in the class discussions.

### **Grading**

Your final course grade will be derived based on the following weighting system:

<i><u>Activity</u></i>	<i><u>Percent of Final Grade</u></i>
Attendance	30%
Assignments, including participation	30%
Project Identification, Plan of Work, Program Paperwork	40%

### **Course Web Page**

Some course materials will be available via WebCT Vista. The course web page can be accessed at <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/ilt/ecourses/index.cfm> . Log on using your Purdue Career account username and password.

### **Cell Phones**

Cell phones and any similar electronics should be turned off during class and not used.

### **Academic Honesty and Honor System**

University policy on academic misconduct is clear — academic dishonesty in any form is strictly prohibited. Instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Penalties are severe and may include failure on the exam, quiz, paper, or project, failure in the course, and/or expulsion from the University. The risks associated with academic dishonesty far outweigh the perceived benefits. Academic dishonesty includes citing someone else's work as your own, using unauthorized "crib sheets" during exams, or sharing your answers with someone else. On all assignments, examinations, quizzes, or other course work undertaken by students, the following pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "*On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work.*" If you are unsure whether an action you are considering constitutes academic dishonesty, seek clarification from your instructor. For more information on the student conduct code and your rights and responsibilities, please visit the web page at: [www.purdue.edu/ooop/univregs/pages/stu\\_conduct/stu\\_conduct.html](http://www.purdue.edu/ooop/univregs/pages/stu_conduct/stu_conduct.html).

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability that requires special academic accommodation, please make an appointment to speak with me within the first three weeks of the semester in order to discuss any adjustments. It is important that we talk about this at the beginning of the semester. Please note that university policy requires all students with disabilities to be registered with Adaptive Programs in the Office of the Dean of Students before classroom accommodations can be provided.

**AGEC 496A HONORS RESEARCH METHODS  
FALL 2006 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Aug. 23	Course and Program Orientation	
Aug. 30	Research and Methodology	Chapters 1 and 2
Sept. 6	The Literature Review	Chapter 7 Meet in Krannert Management & Economics Library
Sept. 13	Ag Econ Faculty Speakers	
Sept. 20	Ag Econ Faculty Speakers	
Sept. 27	Methodological Concepts, Perspectives, Philosophical Foundations	Chapters 3 and 4
Oct. 4	Ag Econ Faculty Speakers	
Oct. 11	Ag Econ Faculty Speakers	
Oct. 18	Ag Econ Faculty Speakers	
Oct. 25	Planning Research, Research Problem and Objective	Chapters 5 and 6
Nov. 1	Conceptual Framework	Chapter 8
Nov. 8	Methods and Procedures	Chapter 9
Nov. 15	Reporting the Research	Chapter 10
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Holiday Week—No Class	
Nov. 29	Catch up week and/or Course Wrap-up	Project final assignments due
Dec. 6	Course Wrap-up	Project final assignments due

**AGEC 496A HONORS RESEARCH METHODS  
FALL 2006**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

Local Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Semester Classification \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Interest \_\_\_\_\_