

**Purdue University**  
**Department of Agricultural Economics**

**AGEC 375**  
**Course Description**  
**Spring 2017**

Instructor: Michael E. Wetzstein

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- I. INTENT:** To enthuse and to equip you in the art of research. The course focuses on the development of sound research approaches and techniques. It explores and supports the excitement of research in practice. The aim is to develop your sense of enquiry into discovery.
  
- II. TEXT:** Deirdre McCloskey, Economic Writing, second edition, Waveland Press, INC, Long Grove, Illinois, 2000.
  
- III. GRADING:**
  - A. Completing activities** – 80% of grade
  
  - B. Class discussions** -- 20% of grade
  
- IV. CLASS ATTENDANCE:** Students are expected to attend classes regularly. A student who incurs an excessive number of absences will be withdrawn from the course.

**AGEC 375**  
**Tentative Schedule of Lecture**  
**Topics and Activities**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LECTURE TOPIC</b>	<b>Activities Due</b>
1	January 13	What is research?	
2	20	Example	1
3	27	Good Research: The essentials	2
4	February 3	Graduate school	3
5	10	Research paradigms, theorizing, and conceptual frameworks	4
6	17	Research methodology and methods	5
7	24	Economical writing 1-8	6
8	March 3	Economical writing 9-16	7
9	10	Economical writing 17-24	8
10	24	Economical writing 25-31	9
11	31	Posters	10
12	April 7	Death by PowerPoint	11
13	14	Managing your time, life, paid work, and research	12
14	21	Putting ethics into practice	13
15	28	Project presentations	14

## Activities Schedule

Activity	Type	Due Date
1	Resume	January 20
2	Critique of resume	January 27
3	Project ideas	February 3
4	Critique of projects	February 10
5	Project hunting	February 17
6	Project problem statement and objectives	February 24
7	Critique of problem statement and objectives	March 3
8	Literature review list	March 10
9	Literature review	March 24
10	Critique of literature review	March 31
11	Poster	April 7
12	PowerPoint	April 14
13	PowerPoint Critique	April 21
14	Presentation	April 28