

**AGEC 692: Workshop in Applied Economics  
Spring 2019**

**Instructors:** Jayson Lusk      [jlusk@purdue.edu](mailto:jlusk@purdue.edu)      KRAN 653  
Nicole Widmar      [nwidmar@purdue.edu](mailto:nwidmar@purdue.edu)      KRAN 656

**Class Meetings:** Wednesdays, 11:30-12:20 in KRAN G005

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**Course description.** This course is designed to help PhD students in the Department of Agricultural Economics prepare to conduct PhD-level applied economic research. The goal is to explain what constitutes a desirable research program for a PhD student and to provide guidance on research design, ethical conduct of research, and preparation of the PhD prospectus document and presentation. A primary objective of this course is that students create one clear and concise research proposal that will serve as the foundation for the remaining prospectus.

**Who is this class for? Prerequisites.** The course is designed for 2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD students in the Department of Agricultural Economics. Before enrolling in AGECE 692 students must have passed the 1<sup>st</sup> year microeconomic theory qualifying exam, but should not yet have defended a prospectus.

**Structure.** The course includes once a week meetings incorporating lectures, student-led discussion of assigned readings and topics, and presentation and discussion of student projects.

**Course requirements and grading.** Grading and credit will be based on class attendance (20%), department seminar attendance (10% each for 2 seminars), course assignments (30%), and a final project (40%). Grades will be assigned on an A (90-100%), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%) and F (0-59%) scale. A student may be excused from one class meeting without penalty if Dr. Lusk or Widmar are informed of the absence prior to class.

**Course learning objectives**

- Identify “researchable” problems that fill a gap in the literature
- Understand ethical conduct of social science research
- Understand the regulatory environment for social science research
- Create and communicate one clear and concise research proposal that will serve as the foundation for the remaining prospectus
- Facilitate open forum discussions to facilitate progress towards prospectus defense

**General Expectations.** Effort and integrity, including respect for instructors and fellow students; academic honesty consistent with Purdue policy; preparation for and participation in all class meetings.

**Communication.** Please note that the primary out-of-class method of communication will be via email to your Purdue email address. It is your responsibility to check for mail on a regular basis. You should check your Purdue email account at least once every 24 hours.

**Special needs.** If you have a disability that requires academic adjustments, please make an appointment to meet with one of the instructors during the first week of classes to discuss your needs. Please note that university policy requires all students with disabilities to be registered with [the Disability Resource Center](#) in the [Office of the Dean of Students](#) before classroom accommodations can be provided.

**Academic Honesty:**

University policy on academic dishonesty is clear: academic dishonesty in any form is strictly prohibited. Anyone found to be cheating or helping someone else cheat will be referred directly to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Penalties are severe and may include dismissal from the University. The risks associated with cheating far outweigh the perceived benefits. Academic dishonesty includes citing someone else's work as your own, using "cheat sheets" or sharing your answers with someone else. If you are unsure whether your planned action constitutes academic dishonesty, seek clarification from your instructor. Other information regarding your rights and responsibilities as a student is contained in the Purdue University [Code of Conduct](#). Writing assignments for this course will be checked for originality using the iThenticate software.

*Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, [University Regulations](#)] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972] Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breeches of this value by either emailing [integrity@purdue.edu](mailto:integrity@purdue.edu) or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information that is submitted provides the greatest opportunity for the university to investigate the concern.*

**Nondiscrimination:**

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in [Executive Memorandum No. D-1](#), which provides specific contractual rights and remedies. Any student who believes they have been discriminated against may visit [www.purdue.edu/report-hate](http://www.purdue.edu/report-hate) to submit a complaint to the Office of Institutional Equity. Information may be reported anonymously.

**Notification of Originality Checking.** All writing assignments will be checked for originality using the iThenticate software.

**Campus emergencies.** In the unusual event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. To get information about changes in this course contact one of the instructors by email, or call one of them at the phone numbers provided above.

To report an emergency, call 911. To obtain updates regarding an ongoing emergency, sign up for Purdue Alert text messages, view [www.purdue.edu/ea](http://www.purdue.edu/ea). There are nearly 300 Emergency Telephones outdoors across campus and in parking garages that connect directly to the PUPD. If you feel threatened or need help, push the button and you will be connected immediately.

If we hear a fire alarm during class we will immediately suspend class, evacuate the building, and proceed outdoors. Do not use the elevator. If we are notified during class of a Shelter in Place requirement for a tornado warning, we will suspend class and shelter in the basement. If we are notified during class of a Shelter in Place requirement for a hazardous materials release, or a civil disturbance, including a shooting or other use of weapons, we will suspend class and shelter in the classroom, shutting the door and turning off the lights.

Please review the Emergency Preparedness website for additional information:  
[http://www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergency\\_preparedness/index.html](http://www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergency_preparedness/index.html)

### **Final Project**

The final project will consist of a research proposal. The proposal must include the following components:

1. Problem statement (introduction and motivation)
2. Objectives
3. Literature review (originality of research)
4. Conceptual framework and hypotheses
5. Methods and Procedures (including data description)
6. Plan for communicating results (journal outlets, meetings presentations, popular press)
7. References

The proposal should be double-spaced with 12 point font with 1 inch margins. The proposal should be no longer than 10 pages excluding the title page and references.

## Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Primary Instructor</b>	<b>Comment</b>
9-Jan	Town Hall Opening Session ... YOUR Path to the Prospectus	Dr. Delgado	Lusk and Widmar also provide syllabus and discuss course content
16-Jan	Ethics and research integrity	Dr. Widmar	---
23-Jan	Ethics, scholarship, and funding	Dr. Widmar	---
30-Jan	Motivation and problem statement	Dr. Lusk	---
6-Feb	Collaborations and strategies for committees	Dr. Widmar	---
13-Feb	Research Objectives	Dr. Lusk	---
20-Feb	Literature Review	Dr. Lusk	turn in problem statement & objectives
27-Feb	Conceptual Framework	Dr. Lusk	---
6-Mar	Methods and Procedures	Dr. Lusk	turn in lit review and conceptual framework
13-Mar	SPRING BREAK (no class)	---	---
20-Mar	Let's conquer the tough stuff that nobody wants to talk about	Dr. Widmar	---
27-Mar	Publishing in journals	Dr. Lusk	turn in methods and procedures
3-Apr	Presentations	Lusk & Widmar	---
10-Apr	Presentations	Lusk & Widmar	---
17-Apr	Presentations	Lusk & Widmar	---
24-Apr	Presentations → Prospectus Lunch	Delgado, Lusk & Widmar	turn in final project