MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS OUTLINE

DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE

COURSE NUMBER: AGR 339 CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. TITLE:

Computer Applications for Agriculture

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A course designed to develop an understanding of practical knowledge of the use of computers with respect to their application to problem solving within agriculture. Students will receive hands-on experience in applying a variety of agricultural specific software to problems in agriculture and agricultural business management.

III. PURPOSE:

To develop an appreciation, understanding, and practical application of computer applications for agriculture.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

New Teacher Standards 3, 8, 9

As a result of participation in this course, students will:

1. develop an understanding of agricultural computer terminology and functions.
2. develop skills in using applications software for decision making in agriculture including recordkeeping, agricultural finance, agricultural business management, animal science, plant and soil science, agricultural education, animal health, horticulture and agricultural mechanization.

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:

1. Basic computer systems and hardware.
2. Common DOS and Windows commands, "booting" and operating software.
3. Word processing.
4. Data bases.
5. Spreadsheets.
6. Basic programming.
7. Education systems.
8. Farm records, accounting and analysis (Cashmaster System) and Marketing systems.
9. Mechanization systems.
10. Livestock systems.
11. Cropping systems.
12. Miscellaneous software.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

1. Classroom activity - lecture and discussion to assist hands-on computer assisted solving of agriculture related problems.
2. Assignments - written and oral.
3. Demonstrations - how to use software programs.
4. Laboratory assignments (to be kept in three-ring notebook).

VII. FIELD, CLINICAL AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:

Students will conduct an exercise consisting of analyzing computer usage in two agricultural situations in farming, business or industry. Also, students will be assigned to a group to research and demonstrate agricultural software.

VIII. RESOURCES:

1. At least 10 - 3 1/2" diskettes
2. Hand held pocket calculator
3. Three-ring hardback notebook
4. Sufficient plastic diskette holders to hold 10 diskettes.
5. Felt-tip pen, paper and stick-on labels to properly identify all diskettes used.

IX. GRADING PROCEDURES:

Laboratory Assignments	- 300
Tests and Quizzes	- 400
Field Experience Report	- 100
Attendance	- 300
Software Research Demonstration/ Presentation	- 100
	1200

Letter grades will be assigned from the following scale:

92-100	A
82- 91	B
75- 81	C
70- 75	D
L70	E

All assignments are expected at the beginning of the period on the date due. Late assignments will be accepted the next class period for 1/2 credit. Extra work at the end of semester to raise grade is not allowed.

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

This course adheres to the policy published in the MSU Undergraduate Bulletin.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's materials as one's own), or doing work for another

person who will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged materials as if it were the student's own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES:

Newman, Michael E. Computer Applications in Agriculture and Agribusiness. Interstate Printers and Publishers. Danville, Illinois, 1994.

Optional: Legacy, James, Tom Stitt and Fred Reseau. Micro-computing-in Agriculture. Reston Publishing Company,Inc. Reston, Virginia 22090.

Camp, Foster, Moore, Moore. Microcomputers-Applications-for Students-in-Agriculture. Interstate Printers and Publishers. Danville, Illinois, 1988.

XIII. PREREQUISITES:

None

AGR 339
Computer Applications for Agriculture

NAME _____

LOCAL ADDRESS _____
_____

PHONE # _____

CLASSIFICATION _____

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY HAD A COMPUTER CLASS?

_____ NO

_____ YES

PLEASE LIST_____

_____

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR COMPUTER EXPERIENCE.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTING TO LEARN FROM THIS COURSE?

WHEN WOULD YOU PREFER HAVING AN OPEN COMPUTER LAB (MORNING, NOON, OR NIGHT - BE SPECIFIC)?