

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY**

Department of **Economics and Finance**  
Title of Course: **Futures Seminar**

Course No. **FI475**  
Revision: **Spring 2012**

**I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:**

Fundamentals, strategies and applications of agricultural and financial futures contracts and markets. (3 hours)

**II. Prerequisites:**

Senior standing and one of the following: (1) AG447 or FI368 with a minimum grade of "C"; (2) honors students; or (3) consent of department chairperson

**III. Purposes or Objectives of Course:**

- A. To study the principles and applications of futures contracts. (*Demonstrate capabilities for critical thinking, reasoning and analyzing.*)
- B. To study the development of agricultural and financial futures contracts for risk management. (*Demonstrate an understanding of human experiences and the ability to relate them to the present.*)
- C. To study the various types of futures contracts and exchanges in the U.S. and other countries. (*Demonstrate an understanding of various cultures and their interrelationships.*)
- D. To study the behavior of futures prices and their use for hedging and speculating purposes. (*Demonstrate the ability to locate and gather information. Demonstrate the ability to make informed, intelligent value decisions. Demonstrate the ability to make informed, sensitive aesthetic responses.*)

**IV. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Solve problems related to the mechanics of stock options, identify, and prepare trading strategies involving stock options.
- B. Solve problems related to futures contracts, margin accounts, and prepare trading strategies involving futures contracts.
- C. Solve problems related to the mechanics of swaps and set up trading strategies involving swaps.

Note: The SLO will be deemed satisfactory if the student scores 60% or above.

**V. Expectations of Students:**

- A. Students will be expected to study all assigned material in the textbook and/or other sources and be prepared to discuss them in class.
- B. Students will be expected to participate in all assigned activities, written, oral, in or outside class during the semester.
- C. Student will be expected to be able to solve finance problems on microcomputers.
- D. Subject to funds availability, students enrolled in the course will be eligible for a trip to the Chicago Board of Trade at 141 W. Jackson, Chicago, Illinois, and the selection of students will be based on cumulative academic criteria.

**VI. Course Content or Outline:**

**Suggested Time In  
50 Minute Periods**

A. Development of Futures Trading and Commodity Exchanges	3
B. Futures Contract Specifications	3
C. Futures Exchanges	3
D. Clearing Operations	3
E. Trading Regulations	3
F. Price Forecasting	5
G. Hedging and Futures Markets	5
H. Speculating and Futures Markets	5
I. Interest Rate Futures	5
J. Stock Index Futures	5
K. Foreign Currency Futures	5

TOTAL 45

**VII. Text (s) or Other Required Materials or Equipment:**

Textbook: Hull, *Fundamentals of Futures and Options*, 6th Edition.  
Pearson, 2008.

**VIII. Basis for Student Evaluation:**

Level of performance on examinations, computer assignments and other assigned activities.