

**AEC 219.001 AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2013**

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COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook Required:

Agricultural Economics by H. Evan Drummond and John W. Goodwin. Prentice-Hall, Inc., New Jersey, 3rd Ed., 2011. (ISBN 9780136071921)

Course Description:

A study of economic principles, with emphasis on their application to the solution of farm, agribusiness, and agricultural industry problems.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course the student will learn to list and explain different agricultural economic fields, including the food industry, demand theory (e.g., demand and price analysis, consumer behavior, and market price determination), supply theory (e.g., production economics, cost analysis, and optimal output levels), and competitive environments (e.g., perfect and imperfect competition).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course consists of a series of assignments and examinations to assist the student in achieving the learning objectives for the course. Each week, students are encouraged to work on assignments and readings in preparation for the exam.

Grading	Percent
Activities, Assignments and Exercises	15%
Class Attendance and Participation	10%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%

Grading Scale

Range	Grade
90-100.00	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
Less than 60	F

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement: Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me any time. Email is the best way to contact me. Office hours are by appointment only. Should you need to meet with me for any reason, a time and place will be determined.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

COURSE SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

Exams: No makeup exams will be offered. A grade of zero will be assigned to any missed exam. Make sure you arrive on time.

Exercises: Exercises should be considered very important material for exams. Exercises will be available via eCollege. The students will be required to submit their individual answers via eCollege according to the class schedule provided (see Class Schedule below).

Class Preparation: Students should read content and complete course assignments prior to deadlines. Students are expected to actively participate in discussions and submit exercises in-time. Students are also expected to complete exams on the date and time allotted. It is your responsibility to be familiar with and understand all previously covered material prior to each new chapter.

Class Attendance and Participation: Attendance and participation is critical to your success in this course. The attendance policy is simple: Come to class every day. Come to class on time. Come to class prepared. The instructor reserves the right to implement punitive policies if attendance is not acceptable. You get **one free absence** in this class, so save it and use it judiciously. If you miss more than four classes, you cannot make an A. It is simply impossible. If you miss five classes, you cannot make a B. If you miss six class periods, you cannot make a C. If you miss eight or more days you will automatically receive an F for the course.

The instructor will pass attendance every class day during the first 5 minutes. If you are late, but arrive during the first 15 minutes of class, you should contact the instructor at the end of the class and you will earn ½ of a regular class attendance. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor in these cases.

UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Services for Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

General Policies for Classes: All students enrolled at the University will follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. See Student's Guide Handbook, Rules and Procedures, Code of Student Conduct at <http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/studentLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

Civility Requirement: The instructor reserves the right to manage a positive learning environment and thus will not tolerate inappropriate conduct in the course. If the instructor feels that you have not attended class adequately, habitually arrive late and unprepared, that you have cut class during speeches; left class in the middle of a session, that you have not contributed appropriately in class, your final course grade may be reduced accordingly. Additionally, the instructor expects every student to maintain a professional level with respecting opinions of the instructor, students, and guest speakers. In this regard, hand-held devices such as cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, and CD players must be turned off during class. The instructor can and will confiscate any devices that are disruptive to the class. Understand that this factor of your grade is highly subjective. In extreme cases, the instructor reserves the right to drop students from the class.

Academic Integrity: In this course the need for collaboration is undeniable if you are to excel, even in cases of individual work. There is a fine line in this process. You are encouraged to seek the help and advice of others. However, you *must* do your own work. My personal policy, which will guide this course, is: I trust you to behave honestly and ethically in all circumstances. Please ask me if you have questions about what is proper and what is not.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Instructors "are expected to uphold and support student integrity and honesty by maintaining conditions that encourage and enforce academic honesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material." See 13.99.99.R0.10 Academic Honesty at http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/administration/Rules%26Procedures/rules_procedures.asp?RID=97.

Plagiarism: Some people seem to believe that anything found on the Internet is free to use as they please. The "cut and paste" option also makes it quite tempting. However, information on the web must be properly cited just as you would any "hard copy" periodicals.

The following web site provides valuable insight relating to what constitutes plagiarism and how it may be avoided: <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>. To avoid plagiarism an individual must give credit wherever he or she uses:

- 1) another individual's idea, opinion, or theory
- 2) facts, statistics, graphs, and drawings that are not common knowledge
- 3) quotations of another individual's spoken or written words
- 4) paraphrase another individual's spoken or written words

Any deviation from the guidelines concerning quotes and citations constitutes plagiarism, as it suggests that you are trying to submit someone else's work and creativity as your own. In accordance with the Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct Section 5.b [1, 2, 3], the penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week of	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1 Jan 14 – Jan 18	Class Intro Syllabus	Ch. 1 The Food Industry	Ch.1 continued
Week 2 Jan 21 – Jan 25	Martin Luther King Day No class	Ch. 1 continued	Ch. 1 continued Ch. 1 exercise due
Week 3 Jan 28 – Feb 1	Ch. 1 continued Ch.2 Intro to Ag. Economics	Ch. 2 continued	Ch. 2 continued
Week 4 Feb 4 – Feb 8	Ch. 2 continued Ch. 2 exercise due	Ch. 2 continued Ch. 3	Ch. 3 continued
Week 5 Feb 11 – Feb 15	Ch. 3 continued	Ch. 3 continued Ch. 3 exercise due	Ch. 3 continued Review for Exam
Week 6 Feb 18 – Feb 22	Exam 1 – Ch. 1, 2 & 3	Ch. 8 Theory of Consumer Behavior	Ch. 8 continued
Week 7 Feb 25 – Mar 1	Ch. 8 continued	Ch. 8 continued Ch. 8 exercise due	Ch. 8 continued Ch. 9 The concept of Elasticity
Week 8 Mar 4 – Mar 8	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS		
Week 9 Mar 11 – Mar 15	Ch. 9 continued	Ch. 9 continued	Ch. 9 continued Ch. 9 exercise due
Week 10 Mar 18 – Mar 22	Ch. 9 continued Ch. 4 Firm as a Production Unit	Ch. 4 continued	Ch. 4 continued
Week 11 Mar 25 – Mar 29	Ch. 4 continued Ch. 4 exercise due	Ch. 4 continued Review for exam	Exam 2 – Ch. 8, 9, & 4
Week 12 Apr 1 – Apr 5	Ch. 5 Costs and Optimal Output Levels	Ch. 5 continued	Ch. 5 continued
Week 13 Apr 8 – Apr 12	Ch. 5 continued Ch. 5 exercise due	Ch. 5 continued Ch. 6 Supply, Market Adj. and Input Demand	Ch. 6 continued
Week 14 Apr 15 – Apr 19	Ch. 6 continued	Ch. 6 continued Ch. 6 exercise due	Ch. 6 continued Ch. 7 Imperfect Competition and Government Regulation
Week 15 Apr 22 – Apr 26	Ch. 7 continued	Ch. 7 continued	Ch. 7 continued Ch. 7 exercise due
Week 16 Apr 29 – May 3	Ch. 7 continued	Review for exam	Study Day
Week 17 FINALS WEEK		Final Exam Ch. 5, 6, & 7 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to change this schedule as circumstances may dictate.

EXERCISES / ASSIGNMENTS RUBRIC

CATEGORY	100%	75%	50%	25%
Quality of Information	All information presented was clear, accurate and thorough.	Most information presented was clear, accurate and thorough.	Most information presented was clear and accurate, but was not usually thorough.	Information had several inaccuracies OR was usually not clear.
Amount of Information	All topics are addressed and all questions answered with at least 4 sentences about each.	All topics are addressed and most questions answered with at least 3 sentences about each.	All topics are addressed, and most questions answered with 1 sentence about each.	One or more topics were not addressed.
Understanding of Topic	Student clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented their information forcefully and convincingly.	Student clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented their information with ease.	Student seemed to understand the main points of the topic and presented those with ease.	Student did not show an adequate understanding of the topic.
Diagrams & Illustrations	Diagrams and illustrations are neat, accurate and add to the reader's understanding of the topic.	Diagrams and illustrations are accurate and add to the reader's understanding of the topic.	Diagrams and illustrations are neat and accurate and sometimes add to the reader's understanding of the topic.	Diagrams and illustrations are not accurate OR do not add to the reader's understanding of the topic.
Sources	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented in the desired format.	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format.	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented, but many are not in the desired format.	Some sources are not accurately documented.
Mechanics	No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Almost no grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors	A few grammatical spelling, or punctuation errors.	Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.