AEC 489 – AGRIBUSINESS NETWORKING THROUGH PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES
Texas A&M University-Commerce
School of Agriculture
Spring 2015

Instructor: Dr. Jose Lopez
Office: Agricultural Science Building, Room 143
Phone: (903) 886-5623
Email: Jose.Lopez@tamuc.edu

Class Time: The instructor will arrange to meet with the students for a total of 16 hours during the duration of the course.

Credit Hours: 1 hour

Office Hours: For immediate consultation I will be available Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment. You are also welcome to stop by my office at any other time. If I am unable to meet with you at that time, we will schedule an appointment. The best way to contact me is via email at Jose.Lopez@tamuc.edu.

Prerequisites: Instructor’s Approval.

Course Description: A 1 hr preparation and reflection course towards students attending and participating in the 2015 Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA, January 31-February 3, 2015 (http://www.saea.org/annual-meeting/).

General Expectations For Students Enrolled in This Course:
1. Students will review/study their class notes from AEC 219, ECO 2301, ECO 2302, AEC 314, AEC 316, and AEC 340.

2. Beginning the week of January 13, students will meet in-person with the instructor for 2 hours per week during the month of January, 2014 to prepare for the conference. The conference will in Atlanta, GA, January 31-February 3, 2015. The instructor will provide information about the accommodations that the Department of Agricultural Sciences, Texas A&M University-Commerce, will provide.

3. The students are expected to attend all preparation sessions during the month of January. Students will be graded on their attendance and participation in the preparation sessions.

4. The students are expected to attend and participate in the SAEA conference activities during the duration of the conference. Additional information about the conference activities can be found in the conference website (http://www.saea.org/annual-meeting/) and/or will be received via email or when checking in at the conference. Students will be graded on their attendance and participation in the SAEA conference activities.

5. After the conference, students will work on a reflection paper (2 to 3 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman font, font size 12) summarizing and evaluating their experiences at the conference as well as discussing what they liked, did not like, and their advice to future Agribusiness students attending the conference. The deadline to submit the paper is provided below (refer to Important Dates section). The students will submit their reflection paper via email.

General Objective: The general objective is to earn an understanding of the different activities that take place during the SAEA annual meeting, learn about the job opportunities (in both the Industrial and Academic sectors), interact with students from the various participating universities (mostly national, but there would be a few international), and network with students, faculty, and/or staff at the conference.
Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Develop an understanding and appreciation for networking conferences, and to learn how they can be used for identifying various opportunities.
2. Develop skills to successfully attend, participate, and network in future conferences.

Grading:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference Preparation / Attendance to Preparation Sessions</td>
<td>35.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>35.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection Paper</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
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Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100.00</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89.99</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>70-79.99</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69.99</td>
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<td>Less than 60</td>
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Important Dates:

- January 19, Monday: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No Class).
- January 20, Tuesday: First day of this class.
- January 31-February 3, 2015: SAEA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.
- March 13th, Friday: Last day of this class.
- March 13rd, Friday: Reflection paper due date.

The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this syllabus during the semester.