

AEC 518 – THESIS
Texas A&M University-Commerce
School of Agriculture
Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Jose Lopez

Office: Agricultural Science Building, Room 143

Phone: (903) 886-5623

Email: Jose.Lopez@tamuc.edu

Class Time: N/A

Credit Hours: 3 hours

Sections: Sec. 011

Office Hours: You can contact me via email at Jose.Lopez@tamuc.edu. Alternatively, you can email me from eCollege (<http://www.online.tamuc.org/>). I generally answer emails within 1 business day (8:00 AM-5:00 PM). Emails that arrive after 5:00 PM will be answered the next business day. I don't answer emails on weekends, so make sure you contact me in time. If you wish to visit with me in person, I will be available for immediate consultation on 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.

Prerequisites: AG 532 and the students must be enrolled in the Master of Science in Agricultural Sciences Option I (Thesis Option).

General Expectations For Students Enrolled in AG518:

1. Students will work on their research project under the supervision of the instructor. Dr. Jose Lopez must be your graduate faculty advisor if you want to take this course with him.
2. The students will complete the weekly/ semi-weekly assignments listed in the Grade Determination section below and schedule weekly/ semi-weekly appointments (as necessary) with the instructor to discuss the assignments.
3. If the student completes all the assignments satisfactorily during the term enrolled but has scheduled the thesis defense for a later term, a grade of "I" (meaning "Incomplete") will be assigned at the end of the term.
4. If the student completes the assignments satisfactorily during the term enrolled and the student's graduate committee approves the thesis and performance on the oral exam during the term enrolled, a grade of "S" (meaning "Satisfactory") will be assigned at the end of the term.
5. If the student does not complete the assignments satisfactorily during the term enrolled, a grade of "U" (meaning "Unsatisfactory") will be assigned at the end of the term.

General Objective: The general objective of AG518 is that students make satisfactory progress in their Master's Theses. If the students are in the final stage of their research project, the general objective of AG 518 is that the students demonstrate understanding and mastery of a research process.

Student Learning Outcomes:

When the students are taking their first 3 hours of Master's Thesis but have been working with Dr. Lopez on their Master's Thesis for the last one or two semesters, then the students will make satisfactory progress on their research by working during the semester and submitting to the instructor by the deadline below, acceptable drafts of (a) Chapter I: Introduction, (b) Chapter II: Literature Review, (c) Chapter III: Conceptual Framework, Research Methods, and Procedures; and (d) a preliminary draft of your Chapter IV: Results and Discussion. Refer to the Graduate Studies and Research web page for the most current version of the "Thesis Guide". (<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/graduateforms.aspx>)

Grade Determination:

The following grade determination applies only to students who are taking his/her first 3 hours of Master's Thesis but have been working with Dr. Lopez on their Master's Thesis for the last one or two semesters (i.e., have completed acceptable drafts of their Chapter I: Introduction and Chapter II: Literature Review).

	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
(1) Submit via email a revised version of your "Chapter I: Introduction" incorporating all your instructor's edits, comments, and suggestions.	10%	Fri., Sep.11 th , 2015
(2) Submit via email a revised version of your "Chapter II: Literature Review" incorporating all your instructor's edits, comments, and suggestions.	10%	Fr., Sep 18 th , 2015
(3) Submit via email "Chapter III: Conceptual Framework, Research Methods, and Procedures" of your Master's Thesis to your instructor. I recommend that you read a relevant Agribusiness Master's Thesis from either the School of Agriculture at A&M-Commerce or from the Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics at another institution to familiarize with the content in this chapter.	10%	Fr., Oct 2 nd , 2015
(4) Submit via email a revised version of your "Chapter III: Conceptual Framework, Research Methods, and Procedures" incorporating all your instructor's edits, comments, and suggestions.	15%	Fr., Oct. 9 th , 2015
(5) Schedule an appointment with your instructor to present to him and discuss some of your preliminary results.	5%	Fr., Oct. 16 th , 2015
(6) Prepare and submit to your instructor via email your Master's Thesis Proposal following the Proposal Guidelines provided by Graduate School. Refer to "Thesis Proposal Process Packet and Forms" in the Graduate School website for Graduate Forms & Guidelines.*	10%	Fr., Oct. 30 rd , 2015
(7) Submit via email a revised version of your Master's Thesis "Proposal" incorporating all your instructor's edits, comments, and suggestions.	15%	Fr., Nov. 6 th , 2015
(8) Submit via email a draft of your "Chapter IV: Results and Discussion."	10%	Fr., Nov. 20 th , 2015
(9) Submit via email a revised version of your draft of your "Chapter IV: Results and Discussion" incorporating all your instructor's edits, comments, and suggestions.	15%	Fr., Dec. 4 th , 2015
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* <http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/graduateforms.aspx>

The student is responsible for contacting the instructor and for understanding the instructor's expectation for the weekly/semi-weekly assignments above. The assignments above will be graded based on the quality of the content

and the timely submission each assignment to the instructor. **Late submissions will result in a grade of zero and will not be tolerated.**

Grading Scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
“S”	The student completed the weekly assignments satisfactorily during the term enrolled, defended his/her Thesis, and the student’s graduate committee approved his/her thesis and performance on the oral exam during the semester.
“I”	The student completed the weekly assignments satisfactorily during the term enrolled but has scheduled the thesis defense for a later term.
“U”	The student did <u>not</u> complete the weekly assignments satisfactorily during the term enrolled.

Important Dates:

Sep. 1 st , Monday	First day of class.
Sep. 3 rd , Thursday	Last Day to Add Courses without Dean and Instructor Approval.
Sep. 7 th , Monday	Last Day to Withdraw (Drop ALL courses) with 80% Refund.
Sep. 16 th , Wednesday	Last Day to Drop Individual 16 Week Courses with 100% Refund.
Sep. 21 th , Monday	Last Day to Withdraw (Drop ALL Courses) with 50% Refund.
Sep. 28 th , Monday	Last Day to Withdraw (Drop ALL Courses) with 25% Refund.
Nov. 5 th , Thursday	Last Day to Drop Individual 16 Week Courses with a Q Grade (No Refund).
Dec. 6 th , Sunday	Last Day to Withdraw (Drop ALL Courses) (NO Refund).
Dec. 11 th , Friday	Last day of class.
Dec. 12 – Dec. 18	Fall Final Week.

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