

SYLLABUS
AGB 2302 AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
FALL 2015

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Required Text: Penson, et al., Introduction to Agricultural Economics 5th Ed.

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Course Description

This course provides students a systematic introduction to the basic concepts and issues in economics as they relate to a major segment of the U.S. economy – the food and fiber industry. This course is intended to introduce students to the general concepts of agricultural economics while bypassing time-consuming mathematical work.

PowerPoint presentations covering material for each chapter will be posted on Blackboard, and be the basis for all assignments and exams. **In addition, students are strongly advised to purchase and read each chapter in the assigned textbook.** This will greatly aid in the student's understanding of the material and their successful completion of assignments and exams.

In general, assignments for the course will consist of weekly homework and in-class quizzes, 3 in-class exams, and a take-home final exam. Details for individual assignments are described below.

Learning Objectives

1. Define the field of agricultural economics and understand the historical background of the agricultural community.
2. Understand the economics of consumers within the food and fiber industry.
3. Understand the economics of the production, or supply, side of the food and fiber industry.
4. Recognize the role natural resources and the environment have on agricultural economics.

Program Learning Outcomes for the B.S. in Natural Resource Management

The graduating student will demonstrate that he/she is able to:

1. Identify species of wildland plants and wildlife common to the western United States and describe their natural history.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the elements of an ecosystem.
3. Communicate about natural resources and conservation both verbally and in writing.
4. Conduct range and wildlife inventories in a team setting.
5. Apply knowledge about elements of an ecosystem into an appropriate conservation management plan.

Assignments

First Class Day Email – (**Due midnight 25 Aug**) Access Blackboard to confirm that this course is loaded to your account and you are able to access course materials. Download and thoroughly examine syllabus. Send professor email verifying that you can access Blackboard and have read the syllabus. Include in the email your name, major, class (i.e., freshman, sophomore, etc.), and preferred email contact address. This email will be worth 10 bonus points to the overall course point total.

Homework – 10 homework assignments will be given throughout the semester. Homework will be due Thursday of the same week after being handed out. Each homework will be in the format of a Microsoft Word document, and will generally consist of fill in the blank, multiple choice, and short answer questions. Some homework may have an associated reading that will be necessary for its completion. Homework will be based on material from that week's posted PowerPoints and textbook readings.

Quizzes – 10 in class quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Questions within these weekly quizzes will be drawn directly from the previous week's assigned homework. There will be no quizzes on dates that coincide with Exam dates.

Exams – 3 in-class exams will be given on throughout the semester. Each exam will be draw only from material within each section of the course as detailed in the class outline. Exam material will be similar (though not the same) to material in homeworks and quizzes, but will also draw from PowerPoints and textbook readings.

Final Exam – A take-home final exam will be posted on Blackboard at least 2 weeks prior to the due date. Similar to homeworks, the final exam will be posted as a Microsoft Word document and should be completed and uploaded to Blackboard by the due date. The final exam will be comprehensive and based on material from all assignments throughout the semester.

Grading

Attendance and Participation (28 Class Days) x 5.36pts each = 150 pts

Quizzes (10) x 10pts each = 100 pts

Homework (10) x 30 pts each = 300 pts

Exams (3) x 100 pts each = 300 pts

Final Exam (1) x 150 pts = 150 pts

Total = 1000 pts

A = >89.5%, B = 79.5% - 89.4%, C = 69.5% - 79.4%, D = 59.5% - 69.4%, F = <59.5%

No extra credit or curved grading will be given. Grades will be made available throughout the semester.

Expectations and Policies

The student is primarily responsible for his/her individual effort in this course. Achieving a desired grade will rely solely on the student's study habits and attentiveness.

No late assignments will be accepted. There will also be no make-up examinations. The set date and time is the only time for which exams can be taken.

There are certain situations (e.g., deaths in the family, extreme illness, scheduled school activities) that can be considered excused absences from assignments or exams and will be considered on a case by case

basis. Should any of these events arise which would bar the student from completing an assignment, the student is responsible for notifying the professor in due time **BEFORE** the due date for the assignment. Absences will not be excused if no prior notification is given.

I will do my best to provide as much help as I can. Much of this will come in the form of constant reminders via Blackboard concerning upcoming events and due dates. Although no specific office hours are posted, **feel free to email me with any concerns/questions at any time.** I check my email regularly throughout the day and can generally respond within a few hours. That being said, it is the student's responsibility to allow enough time for a response before assignments, exams, etc. are due.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	ASSIGNMENTS	PPTS AND READINGS
1	25 Aug	First Class Day Email	Chapter 1 and History of American Agriculture
	27 Aug	HW 1 Due	
2	1 Sep	Quiz 1	Chapter 2
	3 Sep	HW 2 Due	
3	8 Sep	Quiz 2	Chapter 3
	10 Sep	HW 3 Due	
4	15 Sep	Quiz 3	Chapter 4
	17 Sep	HW 4 Due	
5	22 Sep	Quiz 4	No New Material
	24 Sep	Exam 1	
6	29 Sep	No Quiz	Chapter 5
	1 Oct	HW 5 Due	
7	6 Oct	Quiz 5	Chapter 6
	8 Oct	HW 6 Due	
8	13 Oct	Quiz 6	Chapter 7
	15 Oct	HW 7 Due	
9	20 Oct	Quiz 7	No New Material
	22 Oct	Exam 2	
10	27 Oct	No Quiz	Chapter 8
	29 Oct	HW 8 Due	
11	3 Nov	Quiz 8	Chapter 9
	5 Nov	HW 9 Due	
12	10 Nov	Quiz 9	Chapter 10
	12 Nov	HW 10 Due	
13	17 Nov	Quiz 10	No New Material
	19 Nov	Exam 3	
14	24 Nov	Review for Take-Home Final	
	25-26 Nov	Thanksgiving Holiday	
15	3 Dec	Take-Home Final Exam Due	

TEA AFNR Educator Standards

The teacher understands:

1. Agricultural entrepreneurship, business management, and ethical issues in agricultural business, and
2. The application of economic and marketing principles to agricultural enterprises.

Class Organization:

1. The SRSU catalog states "The instructor may, at his discretion, drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class. Non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences." Come to class! Attendance and class participation will be considered when assigning a final grade.
2. Cheating on any exam or assignment will result in an F for that material and possible expulsion from the class with a grade of F.
3. Missed exam policy: No make-up exams will be provided for an unexcused missed exam. If you miss an exam without an excused absence, you will receive a score of 0 for that exam. Makeup exams will be available for authorized absences but must be completed within one week of the original exam date.
4. If you miss a lecture, you may obtain notes from a willing classmate. Handouts, and assignments may be obtained from me or on Blackboard
5. It is Sul Ross State University Policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact
Accessibility Services Coordinator
Counseling and Accessibility Services
Ferguson Hall Rm. 112
432-837-8203