



AEC 219.01W: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall, 2017

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Rafael Bakhtavoryan

Office Location: Agricultural Science Building, Room 154

Office Hours: 9:00-10:00 a.m., Friday, or by appointment

Office Phone: (903) 886-5367

Office Fax: (903) 886-5990

University Email Address: Rafael.Bakhtavoryan@tamuc.edu (please, use only this email address and put "AEC 219" in the subject of the email)

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours Monday through Friday

COURSE INFORMATION

Class Meeting: Web-based

Readings

Required: PowerPoint Presentations: These will be provided on eCollege

Recommended Textbook: *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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Lecture Topics

Part I: Foundations

The Food Industry	Chapter 1
Introduction to Agricultural Economics	Chapter 2
Introduction to Market Price Determination	Chapter 3

Part II: Microeconomics

The Theory of Consumer Behavior	Chapter 8
The Concept of Elasticity	Chapter 9
The Firm as a Production Unit	Chapter 4
Costs and Optimal Output Levels	Chapter 5
Supply, Market Adjustments, and Input Demand	Chapter 6
Imperfect Competition and Government Regulation	Chapter 7

Student Learning Outcomes

After studying all materials and resources presented in this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the structure of the agricultural sector of the U.S. economy.
2. Understand the concepts of consumer choice under income constraint and market demand.
3. Apply economic principles to understand the conduct and performance of individual producers and the agricultural industry.
4. Understand the market structure in agriculture that affects farm/ranch level and consumer level prices.
5. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
6. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
7. Students will be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data and/or observable facts.
8. Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students are expected to know how to use the learning management system (eCollege will be used heavily in this class), Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Read the assigned PowerPoint presentations.
2. Complete and turn in course assignments and exams at the scheduled time.
3. Use the web to actively seek out other economics sources that fit your learning style and help you better understand the material.
4. Be prepared for exams.

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GRADING

Your grade for the semester will be a weighted average of homework assignments, four equally weighted exams, and a comprehensive final exam.

Homework assignments	10%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Exam 4	15%
Final exam (Exam 5)	30%

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89.99%

C = 70%-79.99%

D = 60%-69.99%

F = 59.99% or below

Assessments

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (HAs): Homework assignments are assigned regularly (see the course outline at the end of the syllabus) and must be completed individually. As a form of experiential learning, HAs help students sharpen their analytical skills. Students must turn in their HAs in Microsoft Word format (or at least in pdf format, although the Word format is preferred) via eCollege (through uploading it to Dropbox) according to the course outline. HAs must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the due date. While it is my strong belief that you should be able to do the HAs after reading the chapter, you can ask questions related to HAs by emailing them to me. I will do my best to answer them **only during business hours** by guiding you in the right direction or providing you with hints. No late HAs will be accepted and a grade of zero will be assessed for missed HAs.

EXAMS: Exams will be administered through eCollege (see the course outline at the end of the syllabus for specific exam dates). Exams must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Exams will be timed and you will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete the exam. Make sure you have internet access ahead of time and that your laptop battery is fully charged. No make-up exams will be given. If an exam is missed a grade of zero will be assessed for it. Exams must be completed individually using your own student account and there should be no collaboration or sharing of work with your classmates on the exams. Final exam is **comprehensive** and you will have 2 hours to complete it.

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled internet browser. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. [Browser Check http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Reg_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#BrowserSet](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Reg_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#BrowserSet)

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
 - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

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- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.
- For additional information about system requirements, please see: [System Requirements for LearningStudio](https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical)
<https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to [myLeo](#) and from the top menu ribbon select eCollege. Then on the upper left side of the screen click on the My Courses tab. <http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: It is strongly recommended you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the My Courses tab, and then select the Browser Test link under Support Services.

Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support for the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24/7 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

If you experience LearningStudio (eCollege) technical problems, contact the LearningStudio helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511 (toll free) or visit [Pearson 24/7 Customer Support Site](http://247support.custhelp.com/) <http://247support.custhelp.com/>

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The student help desk may be reached in the following ways:

- **Chat Support:** Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson LearningStudio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

Accessing Help from within Your Course: Click on the '*Tech Support*' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. Then you will be able to get assistance via online chat or by phone.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511.
2. Students must file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and provide me with the helpdesk ticket number.
4. I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer and internet access problems are not a legitimate excuses for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. Only Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate reasons to contact the Help Desk.

You strongly are encouraged to check for your internet browser compatibility **BEFORE** the course begins and take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform.

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myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at [myLeo](https://leo.tamuc.edu).
<https://leo.tamuc.edu>

Learner Support

The [One Stop Shop](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/) was created to serve you by providing as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>

The [Academic Success Center](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/) provides academic resources to help you achieve academic success.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The instructor's communication response is stated clearly (see page 1).

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Students are expected to submit all assignments and exams on time. No late Assignments or exams will be accepted and a grade of zero will be assessed for them.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures***Student Conduct***

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

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TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

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

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE

**AEC 219: Agricultural Economics,
Web-based
Fall 2017**

Weeks	Topic/All assignments are due on specific dates listed below by 11:59 p.m. For example, homework assignment 1 is due September 10 by 11:59 p.m., or homework assignment 2 is due September 17 by 11:59 p.m., or EXAM 1 is due October 1 by 11:59 p.m.
Week 1 Aug 28 – Sep 3	Syllabus & eCollege Tutorial
Week 2 Sep 4 – Sep 10	Chapter 1. The Food Industry, Homework Assignment (HA) 1
Week 3 Sep 11 – Sep 17	Chapter 2. Introduction to Agricultural Economics, HA 2
Week 4 Sep 18 – Sep 24	Chapter 3. Introduction to Market Price Determination, HA 3

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Week 5 Sep 25 – Oct 1	EXAM 1. Chapters 1, 2, 3
Week 6 Oct 2 – Oct 8	Chapter 8. The Theory of Consumer Behavior, HA 4
Week 7 Oct 9 – Oct 15	Chapter 9. The Concept of Elasticity, HA 5
Week 8 Oct 16 – Oct 22	EXAM 2. Chapters 8, 9
Week 9 Oct 23 – Oct 29	Chapter 4. The Firm as a Production Unit, HA 6
Week 10 Oct 30 – Nov 5	Chapter 5. Costs and Optimal Output Levels, HA 7
Week 11 Nov 6 – Nov 12	EXAM 3. Chapters 4, 5
Week 12 Nov 13 – Nov 19	Chapter 6. Supply, Market Adjustments, and Input Demand, HA 8
Week 13 Nov 20 – Nov 26	Chapter 7. Imperfect Competition and Government Regulation, HA 9
Week 14 Nov 27 – Dec 3	EXAM 4. Chapters 6, 7
Week 15 Dec 4 – Dec 10	Study week
Week 16 Dec 11 – Dec 14	FINAL EXAM (EXAM 5). Chapters 1 through 9

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