



# AEC 2317.01W: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Fall 2018

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Rafael Bakhtavoryan

**Office Location:** Agricultural Science Building, Room 154

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays at 2:00p.m.-3:00p.m., and Tuesdays & Thursdays at 12:30p.m.-2:30p.m., or by appointment

**Office Phone:** (903) 886-5367

**Office Fax:** (903) 886-5990

**University Email Address:** [Rafael.Bakhtavoryan@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rafael.Bakhtavoryan@tamuc.edu) (please, use only this email address and put "AEC 2317" in the subject of the email)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

**Communication Response Time:** Within an hour during business hours

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Class Meeting:** Web-based

### Readings

**Required:** PowerPoint Presentations: These will be provided on D2L.

**Recommended Textbook:** *Agricultural Economics* by H. Evan Drummond and John W. Goodwin. Prentice-Hall, Inc., New Jersey, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., 2011 (ISBN 9780136071921).

### **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

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **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**

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 **D2L** learning management system, 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 agricultural 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) by uploading them via D2L according to the course outline. HAs must be submitted by 11:30 p.m. on the due date. No late HAs will be accepted and a grade of zero will be assessed for missed HAs.

**EXAMS:** Exams will be administered through D2L (see the course outline at the end of the syllabus for specific exam dates). Exams must be completed by 11:30 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

## Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

## Desktop Support

| Browser                       | Supported Browser Version(s) | Maintenance Browser Version(s) |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Microsoft® Edge               | Latest                       | N/A                            |
| Microsoft® Internet Explorer® | N/A                          | 11                             |
| Mozilla® Firefox®             | Latest, ESR                  | N/A                            |
| Google® Chrome™               | Latest                       | N/A                            |
| Apple® Safari®                | Latest                       | N/A                            |

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## Tablet and Mobile Support

| Device   | Operating System | Browser                     | Supported Browser Version(s)  |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Android™ | Android 4.4+     | Chrome                      | Latest  |
| Apple    | iOS®             | Safari,<br>Chrome           | The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version.<br><br>Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser. |
| Windows  | Windows 10       | Edge,<br>Chrome,<br>Firefox | Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.  |

- 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.

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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](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later) <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/>
- 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.

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**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.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

### **Brightspace Support**

#### **Need Help?**

#### **Student Support**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

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## Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “click here” to submit an issue via email.



## System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

## 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/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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>

#### 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>

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## **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: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

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

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

### **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.

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## 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 2317: Agricultural Economics,  
Web-based  
Fall 2018**

| Weeks                     | Topic/All assignments are due on specific dates listed below by 11:30 p.m. For example, homework assignment 1 is due September 9 by 11:30 p.m., or homework assignment 2 is due September 16 by 11:30 p.m., or EXAM 1 is due September 30 by 11:30 p.m. |
|---------------------------|---|
| Week 1<br>Aug 27 – Sep 2  | Syllabus & D2L Tutorial   |
| Week 2<br>Sep 3 – Sep 9   | Chapter 1. The Food Industry, Homework Assignment (HA) 1  |
| Week 3<br>Sep 10 – Sep 16 | Chapter 2. Introduction to Agricultural Economics, HA 2   |
| Week 4<br>Sep 17 – Sep 23 | Chapter 3. Introduction to Market Price Determination, HA 3   |
| Week 5<br>Sep 24 – Sep 30 | <b>EXAM 1. Chapters 1, 2, 3</b>   |
| Week 6<br>Oct 1 – Oct 7   | Chapter 8. The Theory of Consumer Behavior, HA 4  |
| Week 7<br>Oct 8 – Oct 14  | Chapter 9. The Concept of Elasticity, HA 5  |

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|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Week 8<br>Oct 15 – Oct 21  | <b>EXAM 2. Chapters 8, 9</b>  |
| Week 9<br>Oct 22 – Oct 28  | Chapter 4. The Firm as a Production Unit, HA 6                      |
| Week 10<br>Oct 29 – Nov 4  | Chapter 5. Costs and Optimal Output Levels, HA 7                    |
| Week 11<br>Nov 5 – Nov 11  | <b>EXAM 3. Chapters 4, 5</b>  |
| Week 12<br>Nov 12 – Nov 18 | Chapter 6. Supply, Market Adjustments, and Input Demand,<br>HA 8    |
| Week 13<br>Nov 19 – Nov 25 | Chapter 7. Imperfect Competition and Government<br>Regulation, HA 9 |
| Week 14<br>Nov 26 – Dec 2  | <b>EXAM 4. Chapters 6, 7</b>  |
| Week 15<br>Dec 3 – Dec 9   | Study week  |
| Week 16<br>Dec 10 – Dec 14 | <b>FINAL EXAM (EXAM 5). Chapters 1 through 9</b>                    |

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