



**AEC 2317.02W – AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
FALL 2018**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **Instructor**

Name: Dr. Jose Lopez, Associate Professor of Agribusiness  
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### **Class Time**

Web Based Course (myleonline.tamuc.edu)

### **Office Hours**

For immediate consultation I will be available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and 1:00 – 1:30 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, send me an email and we will schedule an appointment. The best way to contact me is via email at [Jose.Lopez@tamuc.edu](mailto:Jose.Lopez@tamuc.edu). You can also email me from D2L (myleonline.tamuc.edu). I generally answer emails within 48 hours. Emails that arrive after 5:00 PM will be answered within 48 hours starting the next business day. I don't answer emails on weekends or during university holidays, so make sure you contact me in time.

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Recommended Text**

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

Note: Older editions of the textbook such as 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is also acceptable; however, the section numbering may not match. Students who decide to purchase older editions of the textbook are responsible for matching the section numbering provided in the course calendar (refer to Course Calendar at the end of this syllabus) with the section numbering in their textbook.

### **Prerequisites**

None.

## Teaching Philosophy

1. A course must deliver information, concepts and methods that will be useful in the student's professional life. However, learning analytical reasoning skills and improving the ability to process and use information efficiently is more important than memorizing facts and formulas and performing procedures repeatedly.
2. Students learn best when theories, concepts and procedures are explained in plain language as well as formally, and are complemented with examples or applications that are relevant to the students.

## Character Formation

It is important during your graduate education to learn the values and rewards of hard work, responsibility, and honesty. The professor will promote character formation while teaching the course.

## 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

Upon satisfactory completion of the course the student will be able to list and explain different agricultural economic fields, including the food industry, demand theory (e.g., demand and price analysis, consumer behavior, and market price determination), supply theory (e.g., production economics, cost analysis, and optimal output levels), and competitive environments (e.g., perfect and imperfect competition).

## Topics

### Part I: Agricultural Economics and Food

#### Chapter 1: The Food Industry

- Overview of the food industry and its major sectors (farm service, producers, processors, and marketers); facts, trends, and contemporary issues in American agriculture (farm structure, concentration, globalization, coordination, and energy sources).

#### Chapter 2: Introduction to Agricultural Economics

- Agricultural Economics and its foundations; questions economic system must decide; economic systems used to allocate resources; levels of economic analysis; common logical fallacies (correlation versus causation, fallacy of composition, after this therefore because of this, zero sum game fallacy); relationships among two variables (linear direct, linear inverse, nonlinear direct, nonlinear inverse, and complex); slope of lines and curves.

### Part II: Demand and Supply Theory

#### Chapter 3: Introduction to Market Price Determination

- Market price determination; definition and dimensions of a market; conditions for perfect competition; concept of demand and supply; market demand and supply vs. quantity demanded and quantity supplied; movement of vs. movement along the demand and supply curves; equilibrium prices and quantities; surplus and shortages; concept of elasticity; broadly defined vs. narrowly defined goods; necessities vs. luxuries; cheap vs. expensive goods; elastic vs. inelastic market demand and supply curves.

#### Chapter 8: The Theory of Consumer Behavior

- Basic economic theory behind consumers' behaviors; law of demand; the substitution and real income effects; utility maximizing consumption level of two goods; concepts of utility, total utility, marginal utility, and the law of diminishing marginal utility; factors influencing consumer's tastes and preferences; the equi-marginal principle of utility maximization; determination of the market demand curve from individual consumer demands.

#### Chapter 9: The Concept of Elasticity

- Overview of the concept of elasticity; different types of elasticity (demand, supply, cross-price, and income); calculation and interpretation of the elasticity coefficients.

#### Chapter 4: The Firm as a Production Unit

- Behavior of the production unit from a microeconomic point of view; business structures; accounting and economic profits; conditions for perfect competition; the production process; fixed and variable inputs; output; long run; short run; production functions; returns to scale (increasing marginal returns, decreasing marginal returns, and negative marginal returns); marginal product; average product, stages of production function; the rational stage; the law of diminishing marginal product.

### Part III: Production Economics and Competitive Environments

#### Chapter 5: Costs and Optimal Output Levels

- Profit maximization; endogenous vs. exogenous factors; cost curves (TVC, TFC, TC, AVC, AFC, ATC, and MC); revenue curves (TR, MR, and AR); profit; graphical relationships among these curves; pure economic profits; loss minimization; shut down.

#### Chapter 6: Supply, Market Adjustments, and Input Demand

- The firm short-run supply curve vs. the market short-run supply curve; the short-run production decisions and the long-run production decisions using the MC, AVC, and the ATC curves, and P; comparative static with shifts in the market supply and market demand curves.

#### Chapter 7: Imperfect Competition and Government Regulation

- Market structure and its importance to the firm; conditions for a perfectly competitive firm; conditions for a monopoly; average cost curves and marginal cost curves in perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition and oligopoly; positive economic profits; monopolist profit maximizing; product differentiation; game theory and its relation with oligopolistic markets; collusion; natural monopolies; agricultural market orders.

## **GRADING**

### Grading

Exam 1	15.00%
Exam 2	15.00%
Exam 3	15.00%
Exam 4	15.00%
Exam 5 (Comprehensive Exam)	15.00%
Exercises – Short Exercises and Short Answers	15.00%
Exercises – MC Questions	10.00%
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	100.00%

Note: Exam 5 is a final comprehensive exam and it is mandatory. All your grades will be available in D2L, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce.

### **Grading Scale**

<u>Range</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100.00	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
Less than 60	F

### **Exams**

Make sure you take all the mandatory exams (see Class Calendar below). No makeup exams will be offered. A grade of zero will be assigned to any missed mandatory exams. Exams and quizzes will be administered through MyLeoOnline (D2L). Exams will be timed and are to be completed by 11:59 PM on the due date. Make sure you have internet access and that your laptop battery is fully charged (if using a laptop computer).

### **Exercises**

Exercises will be graded and should be considered very important course material for your exam preparation. Exercises will involve agricultural economic principles and applications. Students will be required to submit their individual answers via MyLeoOnline no later than 11:59 PM on the due date (see Course Calendar below). Exercises will become active the first day of each week and are to be completed no later than 11:59 PM on the due date.

### **Review Questions**

Review Questions will not be graded. Students are welcome to ask questions during office hours. Review Questions summarize and assist students understanding the materials covered by the instructor and should also assist students in preparing for quizzes and exams. Consider the Review Questions as a Study Guide for the exams. The students are NOT required to submit their answers.

### **Problem and Discussion Questions**

Selected problems and discussion questions from the textbook will be assigned but will NOT be graded. Students are welcome to ask questions via email or during office hours. These problems and discussion questions will emphasize on agricultural economic problems that have applications to the solution of farm, agribusiness, and agricultural industry problems. The students are NOT required to submit their answers to these selected problems and discussions questions from the textbook.

### **Class preparation and attendance**

It is your responsibility to read and study all handouts, the book chapters (if needed), to complete and submit all course assignments in-time, and to take all the mandatory exams before the deadline. Students are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor if they have any questions or comments. Email is the best way to contact me. I will be available for consultation via email or for in-person consultation during office hours.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This course will be offered online using D2L, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. Students will be required to download PowerPoint presentations and other important class material from the D2L website for the course.

### 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

## Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, 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.  Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, 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.

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

This course will be offered online using D2L, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To log into the course, go to: [myleonline.tamuc.edu](http://myleonline.tamuc.edu)

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.

### 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.

## COMMUNICATION WITH INSTRUCTOR

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

The primary form of communication with the class will be through course Announcements and emails. Any changes to the syllabus or other important information critical to the class will be disseminated to students via class Announcements and/or via email through your official university email address available to you through MyLeo. It will be your responsibility to check the course Announcements and your university email regularly.

During regular working days and hours (M-F from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM), I generally answer emails within 24 hours. Students who email me outside of regular working days and hours can expect a reply within 24 hours from 8:00 AM of the next business day (M-F). Students who email me during holidays or over the weekend should expect a reply within 24 hours from 8:00 AM of the next regularly scheduled business day.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures

#### Academic Honesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) receiving a failing grade on the assignment, the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. In **ALL** instances, incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head. Please be aware that academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

*Cheating* is defined as:

- Copying another's test or assignment
- Communication with another during an exam or assignment (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
- Giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
- Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key

*Plagiarism* is defined as:

- Using someone else's work in your assignment without appropriate acknowledgement
- Making slight variations in the language and then failing to give credit to the source



*Collusion* is defined as:

- Collaborating with another, without authorization, when preparing an assignment  
If you have any questions regarding academic dishonesty, ask. Otherwise, I will assume that you have full knowledge of the academic dishonesty policy and agree to the conditions as set forth in this syllabus.

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend class and actively participate. Student participation/activity will be monitored by the professor. Students should plan to dedicate approximately 15-20 hours/week of time to this course.

### **APA Citation Format Policy**

It is very important that you learn how to cite properly. In some ways, citations are more important than the actual text of your paper/assignment. Therefore, you should take this task seriously and devote some time to understanding how to cite properly. If you take the time to understand this process up front, it will save you a significant amount of time in the long run (not to mention significant deductions in points).

In the social and behavioral sciences, we generally follow the APA (American Psychological Association) formatting style. As a rule of thumb, one cites whenever they are paraphrasing other people's words or when they quote other's words directly. You may learn to cite from a variety of different sources including the APA Tutorial and the sources listed below and in the Getting Started section of your course.

[www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>

[www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/apa](http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/apa)

It is the student's responsibility to understand how to cite properly. If you have questions, feel free to ask.

### **Late Work**

It is the student's responsibility to plan accordingly and submit their assignments in a timely manner. Class assignments will be announced by the instructor during regular class time. The instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of zero to any late assignment.

### **Drop Course Policy**

Students should take responsibility for dropping themselves from the course according to University policy should this become necessary.

### **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

### **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 132**

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

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

University Email address: [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

University Website address:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campuservices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/default.aspx>

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. See Student's Guide Handbook, Rules and Procedures, Code of Student Conduct

(<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>).

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

### **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.

### **Counseling Center**

A student that faces a crisis or a serious and unforeseeable event that affects his/her class performance must contact the Counseling Center, Student Services Building, Room 204, Phone (903) 886-5145. If important class material or course assignments are missed because of such crisis or event, the student must contact the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Campus Concealed Carry**

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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Aug 27 <sup>th</sup> , Monday	First day of classes.
Dec 7 <sup>th</sup> , Friday	Last day of classes.
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup> -14th	Week of final examinations.

## COURSE CALENDAR

Every effort will be made to adhere to the course calendar below. However, unforeseen circumstances may require changes to the course calendar. In that case, changes will be announced via University Email and in Announcements. The professor reserves the right to change the course calendar if necessary and depending on the progress of the class. I highly recommend that you follow the calendar outlined below **VERY CAREFULLY** so that you are sure to complete readings as assigned and turn your assignments in on time.

**AEC 2317.02W AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**  
**Class Schedule, Fall 2018**  
**Web Based Course**

Week of	Subject/Material Covered	Assignment Due By 11:59 PM on Due Date
Week 1 Aug 27 – 31	Syllabus D2L Tutorial (MyLeo Online Student Res Course)	D2L Tutorial
Week 2 Sep 3 – 7	CH01: The Food Industry	Exercise - MC Exercise - SE or SA
Week 3 Sep 10 – 14	CH02: Intro to Ag. Economics	Exercise - MC Exercise - SE or SA
Week 4 Sep 17 – 21	Exam 1 – CH01 and CH02	Exam 1
Week 5 Sep 24 – 28	CH03: Intro. Market Price Determination	Exercise - MC Exercise - SE or SA
Week 6 Oct 1 – 5	CH08: Theory of Consumer Behavior	Exercise - MC Exercise - SE or SA
Week 7 Oct 8 – 12	Exam 2 – CH03 and CH08	Exam 2
Week 8 Oct 15 – 19	CH09: Concept of Elasticity	Exercise – MC Exercise - SE or SA
Week 9 Oct 22 – 26	CH04: Firm as Production Unit	Exercise – MC Exercise - SE or SA
Week 10 Oct 29 – Nov 2	Exam 3 – CH09 and CH04	Exam 3
Week 11 Nov 5 – 9	CH05: Costs and Optimal Output Levels	Exercise – MC Exercise - SE or SA

Week 12 Nov 12 – 16	CH06: Supply, Market Adj. and Input Demand	Exercise – MC Exercise - SE or SA
Week 13 Nov 19 – 23	Exam 4 – CH05 and CH06	Exam 4
Week 14 Nov 26 – 30	CH07: Imperfect Competition and Government Regulation	Exercise – MC Exercise - SE or SA
Week 15 Dec 3 – 7	Study Week	Study Week
Week 16 Dec. 10 – 14	Exam 5 – Final Comprehensive Exam CH01 through CH09	Exam 5