



# AEC 2317.01W: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I, 2020

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Rafael Bakhtavoryan

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment only

**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 24 hours Monday through Friday

## 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. 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. Interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data and/or observable facts.
8. 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 (D2L 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.

## **GRADING**

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

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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%

## **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 in order to receive feedback) 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.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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## **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**

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. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

The instructor's communication response time is stated clearly on the first page of the syllabus.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **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).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

## **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>

## ***Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement***

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/>

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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 2317.01W: Agricultural Economics**  
**Summer I, 2020**  
**Web-based**

Lecture #	Weekday	Date	Topic/All assignments are due on specific dates listed below by 11:30 p.m. For example, homework assignment 1 (HA 1) is due June 2 by 11:30 p.m., or homework assignment 2 (HA 2) is due June 4 by 11:30 p.m., or EXAM 1 is due June 9 by 11:30 p.m.
<b>June</b>			
1	Mon	1-Jun	Syllabus, D2L tutorial, & Chapter 1. The Food Industry
2	Tue	2-Jun	Chapter 1. Continued, Homework Assignment 1 (HA 1)
3	Wed	3-Jun	Chapter 2. Introduction to Agricultural Economics
4	Thur	4-Jun	Chapter 2. Continued, HA 2
5	Fri	5-Jun	Chapter 3. Introduction to Market Price Determination
6	Mon	8-Jun	Chapter 3. Continued, HA 3

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7	Tue	9-Jun	<b>EXAM 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3</b>
8	Wed	10-Jun	Chapter 8. The Theory of Consumer Behavior
9	Thur	11-Jun	Chapter 8. Continued, HA 4
10	Fri	12-Jun	Chapter 9. The Concept of Elasticity
11	Mon	15-Jun	Chapter 9. Continued, HA 5
12	Tue	16-Jun	<b>EXAM 2: Chapters 8, 9</b>
13	Wed	17-Jun	Chapter 4. The Firm as a Production Unit
14	Thur	18-Jun	Chapter 4. Continued, HA 6
15	Fri	19-Jun	Chapter 5. Costs and Optimal Output Levels
16	Mon	22-Jun	Chapter 5. Continued, HA 7
17	Tue	23-Jun	<b>EXAM 3: Chapters 4, 5</b>
18	Wed	24-Jun	Chapter 6. Supply, Market Adjustments, and Input Demand
19	Thur	25-Jun	Chapter 6. Continued, HA 8
20	Fri	26-Jun	Chapter 7. Imperfect Competition and Government Regulation
21	Mon	29-Jun	Chapter 7. Continued, HA 9
22	Tue	30-Jun	<b>EXAM 4: Chapters 6, 7</b>
<b>July</b>			
23	Wed	1-Jul	<b>FINAL EXAM (EXAM 5): Chapters 1 through 9</b>

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