



AEC 2317.01W: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Rafael Bakhtavoryan

Office Location: Agricultural Science Building, Room 232

Office Hours: Mondays through Fridays via email, 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 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, 3rd 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, East Texas A&M University 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 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

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

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.

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, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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 page 1.

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.

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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:

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

ETAMU 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 East Texas A&M University 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>

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AI Use in Course

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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

East Texas A&M University

Gee Library - Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

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

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE AEC 2317: Agricultural Economics Web-based Spring 2025

Weeks	Topic/All assignments are due on specific dates listed below by 11:30 p.m. For example, homework assignment 1 is due January 26 by 11:30 p.m., or homework assignment 2 is due February 2 by 11:30 p.m., or EXAM 1 is due February 16 by 11:30 p.m.
Week 1 Jan 13 – Jan 19	Syllabus & D2L Tutorial
Week 2 Jan 20 – Jan 26	Chapter 1. The Food Industry, Homework Assignment (HA) 1
Week 3 Jan 27 – Feb 2	Chapter 2. Introduction to Agricultural Economics, HA 2
Week 4 Feb 3 – Feb 9	Chapter 3. Introduction to Market Price Determination, HA 3
Week 5 Feb 10 – Feb 16	EXAM 1. Chapters 1, 2, 3
Week 6 Feb 17 – Feb 23	Chapter 8. The Theory of Consumer Behavior, HA 4
Week 7 Feb 24 – Mar 2	Chapter 9. The Concept of Elasticity, HA 5
Week 8 Mar 3 – Mar 9	EXAM 2. Chapters 8, 9

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Week 9 Mar 10 – Mar 16	No class: Spring Break
Week 10 Mar 17 – Mar 23	Chapter 4. The Firm as a Production Unit, HA 6
Week 11 Mar 24 – Mar 30	Chapter 5. Costs and Optimal Output Levels, HA 7
Week 12 Mar 31 – Apr 6	EXAM 3. Chapters 4, 5
Week 13 Apr 7 – Apr 13	Chapter 6. Supply, Market Adjustments, and Input Demand, HA 8
Week 14 Apr 14 – Apr 20	Chapter 7. Imperfect Competition and Government Regulation, HA 9
Week 15 Apr 21 – Apr 27	EXAM 4. Chapters 6, 7
Week 16 Apr 28 – May 4	STUDY WEEK: Preparing for the Final Exam
Week 17 May 5 – May 8	FINAL EXAM (EXAM 5). Chapters 1 through 9

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