



## AEC 2317.01W: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

### COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2026

### 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@etamu.edu](mailto:Rafael.Bakhtavoryan@etamu.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, 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.

## 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.

## 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](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.etamu.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.etamu.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

### 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@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.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.

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## **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](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

#### **ETAMU Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#).

#### **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 University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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## **Use of Artificial Intelligence**

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.

## **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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu)

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

## **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.

## **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.

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.

## **East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services**

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.etamu.edu/counsel](http://www.etamu.edu/counsel)

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**AEC 2317: Agricultural Economics**  
**Web-based**  
**Spring 2026**

<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Topic/All assignments are due on specific dates listed below by 11:30 p.m. For example, homework assignment 1 is due January 25 by 11:30 p.m., or homework assignment 2 is due February 1 by 11:30 p.m., or EXAM 1 is due February 15 by 11:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Week 1</b> Jan 12 – Jan 18	Syllabus & D2L Tutorial
<b>Week 2</b> Jan 19 – Jan 25	Chapter 1. The Food Industry, Homework Assignment (HA) 1
<b>Week 3</b> Jan 26 – Feb 1	Chapter 2. Introduction to Agricultural Economics, HA 2
<b>Week 4</b> Feb 2 – Feb 8	Chapter 3. Introduction to Market Price Determination, HA 3
<b>Week 5</b> Feb 9 – Feb 15	<b>EXAM 1. Chapters 1, 2, 3</b>
<b>Week 6</b> Feb 16 – Feb 22	Chapter 8. The Theory of Consumer Behavior, HA 4
<b>Week 7</b> Feb 23 – Mar 1	Chapter 9. The Concept of Elasticity, HA 5
<b>Week 8</b> Mar 2 – Mar 8	<b>EXAM 2. Chapters 8, 9</b>
<b>Week 9</b> Mar 9 – Mar 15	<b>No class: Spring Break</b>
<b>Week 10</b> Mar 16 – Mar 22	Chapter 4. The Firm as a Production Unit, HA 6
<b>Week 11</b> Mar 23 – Mar 29	Chapter 5. Costs and Optimal Output Levels, HA 7
<b>Week 12</b> Mar 30 – Apr 5	<b>EXAM 3. Chapters 4, 5</b>
<b>Week 13</b> Apr 6 – Apr 12	Chapter 6. Supply, Market Adjustments, and Input Demand, HA 8
<b>Week 14</b> Apr 13 – Apr 19	Chapter 7. Imperfect Competition and Government Regulation, HA 9
<b>Week 15</b> Apr 20 – Apr 26	<b>EXAM 4. Chapters 6, 7</b>
<b>Week 16</b> Apr 27 – May 3	STUDY WEEK: Preparing for the Final Exam
<b>Week 17</b> May 4 – May 7	<b>FINAL EXAM (EXAM 5). Chapters 1 through 9</b>

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