

Course Syllabus Spring 2008
AGR 164.01 Introduction to Agricultural Economics
Credit Hours: 3.0

AGR 164 PRINCIPLES OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS. [AGRI 2317] This course is designed to give the student an introduction to economic and business principles related to agriculture. (3-0), Credit 3.

Basic Information

Instructor: Mr. Art Wolfskill

Phone: 936-294-1226

Office: Thomason 312;

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, and Thu 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Email: wolfskill@shsu.edu

Class Meetings: Monday and Wednesday, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.; Thom 221

Final Examination: Monday, 8:00am - 10:00am

Text: *Introduction to Agricultural Economy and Business*, by Hanagriff and Wolfskill, 2008 ed., available in the university bookstore as a course packet. This text is **required**.

Course Objectives

AGR 164 is a course designed to introduce students to economic principles related to agriculture, and to agribusiness concepts that can be used to better manage agricultural operations. The concepts learned in this course will be necessary for further study in the field of agribusiness, as well as the technical agricultural disciplines of animal science, horticulture, and agricultural mechanization.

Performance Evaluation

Your final grade will be a function of:

Three midterm exams	60%
Various quizzes, homework assignments, and class participation/attendance	15%
Final examination (comprehensive)	25%
Total Class Grade	100%

Course grades will be assigned from a student's weighted course average.

Grades will be based on percentages and are assigned as follows:

A = 90.0% and Above	D = 60.0% - 69.9%
B = 80.0% - 89.9%	F = Below 60.0%
C = 70.0% - 79.9%	

All email correspondence (including homework turned in by email) **MUST** have the subject line beginning with *AGR 164*, followed by the actual subject. Additionally, all homework submissions by email **MUST** be submitted as an MS Office compatible attached file. Homework done in the body of the email will not be accepted. Period. If you choose to submit work electronically, it is your responsibility to ensure that you submit it with enough time to arrive in my inbox before the due date/time. Email is not instantaneous!

Excused absence from a graded item requires written notice personally delivered to the instructor **well in advance** of the scheduled due date. Failure to notify the instructor of an impending absence will result in a score of zero for that item. Notice of an anticipated absence does not guarantee approval by the instructor.

There will be three midterm examinations during the semester, with a cumulative final exam. The exams will cover material from lectures, class discussion, class handouts, and assigned readings. Exam format will vary and may consist of objective questions (T/F, M/C), short answer, essay, and mathematical/ graphical analysis.

It is absolutely essential that you come to class prepared, having already read the chapter(s) that will be covered. The textbook is essential to this course, so you should expect to purchase it. I will generally use PowerPoint slides to highlight the topics presented in lecture. However, these slides will **not** be available on the t-drive. Plan on taking notes and reading your text.

NO late work will be accepted for any reason. Homework may be turned in by another classmate, early, faxed, or other arrangements made prior to due date. Pop tests cannot be made up for any reason. Excused absence from a pop test can get the points waived from their average. Excused absences must be appropriately documented, and should be discussed with the instructor before the absence. For an excused exam absence, the grade you make on the Final Exam will be counted for the missed exam grade.

Active participation in class discussions is a must: therefore, class attendance is required throughout the semester. Absence from class may result in a loss of points for the semester. Students are to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.

If you believe your exam or other coursework deserves a grade other than the one you received, bring it to my attention during office hours. I am happy to entertain a confidential discussion about anything I grade up to **one week** after it is returned to the class. If your request is to "re-grade" your work, I reserve the right to evaluate the

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entire exam, homework, or project, and your total points may go up or down. After one week, any grade stands as given.

Violations of SHSU Academic Honesty Policy will result in a grade of "F" for the assignment, and possibly the entire course, depending on the severity of the offense.

Expected Student Behavior

- Students are expected to keep all pagers, cell phones and other electronic devices turned off during class time. A ringing cell phone may incur the wrath of an immediate pop quiz for the entire class.
- Students are expected to pay attention and participate in class discussion.
- Students are expected to remain in class during the entire session.
- Inappropriate or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, nor will lewd or foul language.
- The class follows the standards set by the university, and students are subject to disciplinary action for violations.

AGR 164 TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

I. The Economic Framework

Introduction to Ag Economics (Chapter 1)
The Farm and Food System (Chapter 2)
Consumer Behavior and Demand (Chapter 3)
EXAM 1

II. Producers and Supply

Producer Decision Making (Chapters 4, 5, 6)
Determination of Supply (Chapter 7)
EXAM 2

III. Risk Management

Risk Reduction Practices (Chapter 9)
Agricultural Business Budgeting (Chapter 8)
Financial Concepts
EXAM 3

COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM

Copyright Statement: All materials (handouts, texts, slides, etc.) used in this course are under copyright, and may not be sold, rented, or otherwise transferred for any compensation, including taking notes for others or providing to businesses that sell tutoring or other grade-increasing services.

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The Boilerplate (read it, it's important!). See also www.shsu.edu/syllabus for more info.

Attendance Policy

Department attendance policy will be strictly enforced.

Department of Agricultural Sciences Attendance Policy

1. Regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student in the Department of Agricultural Sciences at Sam Houston State University.
2. Each faculty member will keep a written record of student attendance.
3. If a student misses four or more classes, the student's grade will be reduced by one letter grade. Additional penalties may be assessed at the discretion of the instructor.
4. Three unexcused or unjustified tardies or early departures are considered as one absence.
5. Excused absences must be documented by the student with a letter of confirmation from the sponsoring student organization, professor or doctor. Exemptions will include participation in departmental activities when prior approval is attained from the Department Chair.
6. No exams or assignments will be given at alternative times unless arrangements are made with the professor/instructor before the scheduled activity occurs.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. The physically impaired may contact the Director of Counseling Center who also serves as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone at extension #1720.

Religious Holidays

University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. Not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester, or the 7th calendar day after the first day of a summer session, the student must notify the instructor of each scheduled class that he/she would be absent for a religious holy day.

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