Course Catalog Description:
AGR 385 Agricultural Economic Analysis. This course presents analysis tools from the fields of economics, statistics, and management as they relate to agricultural business decision making. The analytical and quantitative principles are applied to a variety of agricultural business situations. Topics include forecasting, decision analysis, and linear programming. Computer-based methods are emphasized. Prerequisite: STA 169 or MTH 199, AGR 238. (3-0), Credit 3.

Department: Agricultural and Industrial Sciences

Instructor: Art Wolfskill
               Office: Thomason 312
               Phone: 294-1226
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Class Time: Monday – Friday 10:00 – 12:00 in THOM 320

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 12:00 – 2:00, other times by appointment.

Text: Quantitative Analysis for Management, 9th ed. by Render, Stair, and Hanna. We will also use internet readings, handouts, and other material placed on Blackboard or on reserve in the library. This text is **required**. So is a calculator – every class!

               Internet and email access, as well as Microsoft Excel are required resources for this course. Those without personal internet access or Excel can use the many computing facilities offered by SHSU.

               All email correspondence and homework turned in by email **_MUST_** have the subject line beginning with *AGR 385*, 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!

Objectives: The course is intended to:
               ▪ Introduce students to the use of statistics in agribusiness decision making.
               ▪ Introduce students to principles and practices useful in the analysis of agribusiness information.
               ▪ Improve the ability of students to understand principles and tools relevant to agribusiness decision-making.
               ▪ Use the Microsoft Excel Solver to solve constrained problems (LP).

Participation: Students are expected to attend class, to arrive on time, and to participate in class discussions. Students are encouraged to ask questions and provide comments.

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Grading: Grade Scale   Final Grade Assessment
             90 - 100   A   Exam 1   20%
             80 - 89.9   B   Exam 2   20%
             70 - 79.9   C   Exam 3   20%
             60 - 69.9   D   Final Exam (Comprehensive) 25%
             Below 60   F   Homework / In-Class Assign. 15%

The instructor reserves the right to curve grades at the end of the semester.

- Examinations: Exam format will vary and may consist of objective questions (T/F, M/C), short answer, essay, and mathematical/ graphical analysis. Questions will come from material in lectures, assigned textbook chapters, and other readings taken from handouts and Internet sites. If the student must miss an exam, the student must inform the instructor in advance and obtain approval. Make-up exams will not be given. If an absence is officially excused, the grade earned on the final exam will also count for the missed exam.
- Homework and in-class assignments: Homework and in-class assignments (including pop quizzes) will be given from time to time during the course of the semester. The lowest score from these assignments will be dropped in calculating the homework grade for the semester. A pop quiz is likely any time a cell phone rings in class! I believe that homework is for learning, so I do not assign many problems. If you can do the assignments without trouble, great. If you struggle, that is **your** sign that you need to work more problems from the end of the chapter. There are lots of good ones at the end of each chapter.

Tentative Course Outline
 I. Introduction to Quantitative Analysis
 II. Descriptive Statistics in Agriculture
    A. Trends and Patterns in datasets
    B. Central Tendency
    C. Measures of Dispersion
    D. Probability
    E. Probability Distributions
 III. Decision Making
    A. Decision Methods
    B. Linear Regression
 IV. Forecasting
    A. Time-Series Methods
    B. Moving Averages
    C. Monitoring Forecasts
 V. Linear Programming
    A. What it is and what it's for
    B. MS Excel Solver
    C. Applications in Agribusiness

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Visit www/shsu.edu/syllabus for more detail on the "boilerplate" items that go along with each syllabus.

Attendance Policy Department attendance policy will be strictly enforced. Attendance will be taken each class period.

Department of Agricultural Sciences Attendance Policy
1. Regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student in the Department of Agricultural and Industrial 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 which is 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 which 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.

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, without written permission from the course instructor.

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