

COURSE SYLLABUS – Fall 2007
AGR 289.02 – Agribusiness Financial Analysis
3 Credit Hours

Course Catalog Description:

AGR 289 AGRIBUSINESS FINANCIAL ANALYSIS. Principles of farm and ranch management. Topics include: depreciation, inventory, balance sheet, income and expense, production records, income tax principles, enterprise budgeting, partial budgeting, and cash flow budgeting. Analysis and interpretation of farm records. (3-0). Credit 3.

Department: Agricultural and Industrial Sciences

Instructor: Art Wolfskill
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Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 - 9:30 in THOM 318
Final Exam will be held per university schedule, on Thursday Dec 13th at 8:00 am

Office Hours: Mon and Wed 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Tue and Thu 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Text: Ronald Kay, William Edwards, and Patricia Duffy, Farm Management, 5th or 6th Ed., McGraw Hill. (hereafter KED)

Internet and email access are required resources for this course. Those without personal internet access 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 289*, 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 general management principles.
- Introduce students to principles and practices useful in the analysis of agricultural businesses.
- Give the student specific financial analysis tools to help him or her effectively manage the business that they run; specifically, accounting statements, ratio analysis, and budgeting.
- Introduce students to business issues that can help or hurt their business.

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:	<u>Grade Scale</u>		<u>Final Grade Assessment</u>	
	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 individual and/or final grades at the end of the semester. However, this is not a promise to do so!

- Examinations: Exams will typically be short-answer, multiple choice, and problems. Questions will come from material in lectures, assigned textbook chapters, and other readings taken from handouts and internet sites. Make-up exams will not be given without an official excused absence. If the student must miss an exam, the student must inform the instructor in advance and obtain approval to take a make-up exam. Only in clear-cut emergencies will make-up exams be permitted without prior approval.
- 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. Note that these comprise more than a letter-grade worth of your final grade. Take them seriously.

Tentative Course Outline

- I. Introduction to Farm Management (KED Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4)
 - A. General management issues
 - B. Management functions and decision making
 - C. Farm records and accounting introduction
 - D. Asset depreciation and valuation
- II. Financial Statements and Budgeting (KED Ch's 5, 6, and 10)
 - A. Balance sheets and their analysis
 - B. Income statements and their analysis
 - C. Enterprise budgets
- III. Improving Management Skills (KED Chapters 11, 13, 14, and 17)
 - A. Partial budgeting
 - B. Cash flow budgeting
 - C. Business organization
 - D. Time value of money and investment analysis

Most of the readings for this course are from KED. Additional readings from handouts, internet sites, and books placed on reserve may also be required.

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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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 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.

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.