

COURSE SYLLABUS - Spring 2008
AGR 461 – AGRIBUSINESS ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT
3 Credit Hours

Course Catalog Description:

AGR 461 Agribusiness Organization and Management. Management principles relevant to agribusiness firms: marketing management, ecommerce and value added agriculture, managerial concepts, human resource management, and business organizations. Writing enhanced. Prerequisite: AGR 367. (3-0). Credit 3.

Department: Agricultural and Industrial Sciences

Instructor: Michael Lau
Office: Thomason 310A
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Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 – 1:50 in THOM 322

Office Hours: MTWR 2:00 PM-3:00 PM, open door

Text: Principles of Agribusiness Management, 3rd ed. by Beierlein, Schneeberger, and Osburn (hereafter BSO). We will also use internet readings, handouts, and other material placed on Blackboard or on reserve in the library. This text is **required**.

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

Objectives: The course is intended to:

- Introduce students to the nature of agribusiness firms and the role of the agribusiness manager.
- Introduce students the principles and practices used in the management of agribusiness industries.
- Provide students with management tools that may be applied to the types of problems they are likely to encounter in an agribusiness management career.

These objectives will provide you with an understanding of the principles used in making management decisions and the application of these principles in agribusiness. The tools of economic analysis are applied to the solution of problems facing managers of agricultural supply and marketing firms.

We will answer the following questions:

- What is management?
- How do management theories differ?
- What are the functions of management?
- How do we staff?
- How should the business be organized?

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.

Grading: Grade Scale
90 - 100 A
80 - 89.9 B
70 - 79.9 C
60 - 69.9 D
Below 60 F

Final Grade Assessment

Exam 1	10%
Exam 2	10%
Exam 3	10%
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	20%

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Homework / In-Class Assign.	25%
Case Studies	25%

The instructor reserves the right, but not the obligation, to curve grades at the end of the semester.

- Examinations: 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 from the instructor 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. 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!

Missed Work

If you miss an exam or assignment with an OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY EXCUSE you have the option of making-up your missed work. To do so, you must present an explanation and documentation of your absence to Dr. Lau *immediately* following your excused absence. Any delay will jeopardize your right to make up work. Whether you are present for an exam or not, you are expected to be prepared by the scheduled exam date, and thus should be prepared to take a makeup exam the day following your return. Missed work will **not be accepted** without an OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY EXCUSE. To make up missed work:

1. See Dr. Lau ASAP to obtain approval
2. Obtain the make-up assignment from Dr. Lau
3. Complete and return the assignment immediately
4. Write the name of the assignment you are making up at the top of your paper
5. Attach documentation of your OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY EXCUSE and hand in to Dr. Lau.

Attendance is taken each day. Good attendance is rewarded as follows:

Classes Missed Points **added** to Final Grade

0-1 2%

2-3 1%

Bonus points are for attendance so if you miss class you do not get the bonus, no matter your excuse. A University excused absence does not count for my attendance bonus points plan. It is your responsibility each day to be sure the professor counts you present.

Tentative Course Outline

This course will cover 3 major areas.

- Strategic management
- Organization behavior
- Human Resources
 - I. Agribusiness Management Overview
 - II. Planning in the Agribusiness
 - III. Organizing the Agribusiness
 - IV. Controlling the Agribusiness
 - V. Directing the Agribusiness

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Graduate Students

Graduate students enrolled in the class are expected to complete all the required work for undergraduates as well as complete an additional term paper to be assigned by the professor researching the frontier literature in a specific field related to the course.

Visit www.shsu.edu/syllabus on the web for more information.

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.

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