

Course Syllabus Summer 2008
AGR 377.01 Agricultural Finance
Credit Hours: 3.0

AGR 377 Farm and Ranch Management. Focus on planning for the most efficient resource allocation in agricultural operations. This course uses previously taught financial management practices and applies that to an agricultural industry case study. Prerequisite: AGR 367. Credit 3.

Basic Information

Instructor: Mr. Art Wolfskill

Phone: 936-294-1226

Office: Thomason 312

Office Hours: M - F 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm or by appointment

Email: wolfskill@shsu.edu

Class Meetings: Mon - Fri, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Thom 318

Text: Required: None. Recommended: *Foundations of Finance*, by Keown, Martin, Petty, and Scott, 6th ed. (the AGR 367 text)

Course Objectives

AGR 377 is a course designed to allow students to demonstrate their command of the agribusiness concepts learned in their program of study. Students will apply these "booklearning" concepts to the analysis of a real agribusiness, using professional communications and techniques.

Performance Evaluation

Your final grade will be a function of:

One midterm exam	20%
Various quizzes, homework assignments, and class participation/attendance	20%
Final Project report and presentation	60%
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%	

Students will be assigned to consultant groups by the instructor. Each group will act independently, and project grades will be shared within the group. Students will evaluate group members near the end of the course.

All email correspondence (including homework turned in by email) **MUST** have the subject line beginning with *AGR 377*, 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.

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. 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.

It is absolutely essential that you come to class prepared, having prepared for the material that will be covered. Class periods will typically be a mix of discussion on financial and agribusiness concepts, and work on the case study analysis and presentation.

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.

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. Using computers during class carries with it the temptations of Internet, chat, email, non-class related work, etc. Avoid the temptation! Grades will be negatively affected by misuse of the computers.
- 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.

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

AGR 377 TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

I. Financial Management Tools

Introduction, Computer usage
Financial Principles, Taxation
Financial Statements
Financial Statement Analysis

II. Financial Asset Valuation

Time Value of Money
Risk and Return
Cost of Capital

III. Capital Management

Capital Budgeting
Working Capital
Current Asset Management

Key Calendar Items (tentative):

3 June 08	First day of class
5 June 08	HW 1 due (introductory Business Letter)
20 June 08	Midterm Exam
26 June 08	Final Reports due
27 June - 1 July 08	Final Presentations

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.

Additionally, the financial data used in this course come from a working, ongoing business. Professionalism requires that it remain confidential, and not be released to anyone outside the course.

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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