Dr. Leland C. Thompson  
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936-468-3705  
Room 115  Agriculture Building  
Office Hours: none  
Department of Agriculture  
Lecture: 8:00 to 9:15 TR  
Room 121 Agriculture Building (by Group Assignment)

**Agricultural Economics**— Consumer choice, production economics, agricultural markets and prices, and macroeconomic linkages.

**PURPOSE OF COURSE:**

1. Develop an awareness of the scope and unique nature of agricultural economics as it relates to the types of business organizations we have in the industry. Obtain an overview of the macro-profile of the U.S. economy.

2. To become familiar with resource characteristics that flow into U.S. agriculture. Understand the basic tools and principles of economic analysis and how these tools can be used in management decision making.

3. Learn to use concepts and principles of economic theory to explain the behavior of firms. Become familiar with U.S. agricultural policy and its impact on the agricultural sector.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

1. The student will demonstrate an intermediate level understanding of economic theory needed for success in the industries and other highly related careers. (*Critical Thinking*)
2. The student will demonstrate the ability to use analytical methods, (graphic and mathematical), as needed for business management and subject matter. (*Quantitative Analysis*)
3. The student will exhibit problem solving skills. (*Problem Solving*)
4. The student will demonstrate effective communication skills. (*Communication*)
5. The student will exhibit leadership and other interpersonal skills needed for career placement and advancement. (*Social Responsibility*)

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<tr>
<th>B.S. Agricultural Economics Learning Outcomes</th>
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<td>Course</td>
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<td>AEC 261</td>
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Student learning outcomes

Student learning outcomes are specified for AGBS 2361 in support of program outcomes. AGBS 2361 is expected to address program goals at the, “B” (basic) or the, “I” (intermediate) level as indicated above.


Course Requirements

1) Readings in the textbook as specified by the syllabus

2) TESTING:
   - Quiz #1 Ch. 1 and 2: Ag. Industry and Economics (Sept. 9)
   - Quiz #2 Ch. 3: Consumer behavior and Demand (Sept. 23)
   - Quiz#3 Ch. 4: Production Function (Oct. 7)
   - Quiz #4 Ch. 5: Input substitution and enterprise combinations (Oct. 21)
   - Quiz #5 Ch. 6: Cost Concepts and Supply (Nov. 4)
   - Quiz #6 Ch. 7 and 8: Competition and monopoly (Nov. 18)
   - Thanksgiving Holiday: Nov 20 thru Nov. 28
   - Exam #7 Final: December 7

NOTE
Each student has the right to skip the final exam. To keep possession of this right, one has to score higher than 80% on five (5) of the first six (6) quiz –exams.

WEEK #, Topic, Chapter reference
Module 2
I. Introduction to Agribusiness, Ch.1: Begin August 26

   Objective: Learn that production and consumption decision problems can be addressed using economic theory.
   A. Choice and Its Economic Meaning
   B. Economics in Brief
   C. Looking Ahead
II. The Farm and Food System, Ch.2. Begin Sept. 2
Module 2
Objective: Understand the economics of American agriculture, the dimensions of the industry, and its relation to the total U.S. economy.

A. Agriculture's Role in the U.S. Economy
B. The Business Structure of Agriculture
C. Economic Size Classes of Farms
D. Vertical Coordination in Agriculture
E. Types of Business Organizations
F. Farm Cooperatives
G. Farm Output
H. The Agribusiness Complex
I. Overview of our Economic System

Ch. 1&2 quiz Sept 9

III. Consumer Behavior and Demand, Ch.3. Begin Sept. 14
Module 3
Objective: To understand that the study of economics is the study of people’s behavior in the market. Economics is a social science.

A. The Utility Basis of Demand
B. Consumer Choice
C. The Concept of Elasticity

Ch. 3 quiz Sept. 23

IV. Producer Decision-Making: Single Variable Input Production Functions, Ch.4. Begin Sept 28
Module 4
Objective: Understand that producers face decision of what, how much, and how to produce a product.

A. Physical Relationships
B. Value Relationships
C. Summary

Ch. 4 quiz Oct. 7

V. Producer Decision-Making: 2 Variable Input Functions and Enterprise Selection, Ch.5. Module 5 Begin Oct. 12
Objective: Understand factor-factor and product-product relationships.

A. Two Variable Input Functions
B. Product-Product Relationships and Enterprise Combinations

Ch. 5 quiz Sept 21
VI. Production Costs, Supply, and Price Determination, Ch.6.  
Module 6 Begin Oct. 26

Objective: Develop an understanding of production costs derived from the physical production function.

A. Origin of Production Costs  
B. Market Supply  
C. Price Determination  
D. Market disequilibrium  

Ch. 6 quiz Nov. 4

VII. Competition and the Market, Ch7. Begin Nov 9  
Module 7

Objective: Understand that prices are signals to both consumers and producers in their decision making, and to recognize the distinguishing characteristics of markets and market structure.

A. The Function of Price  
B. Market Classification  
C. The Efficiency of Pure Competition  

VIII. Imperfect Competition and Market Regulation, Ch.8. Begin Nov. 9  
Module 7

Objective: Understand the behavior of firms under the structure of Pure Monopoly and Imperfect Competition.

A. Imperfect Competition and the Pure Competitive Standard  
B. Efficiency Comparisons  
C. Public Regulation  
D. Agricultural Bargaining  

Ch. 7&8 quiz Nov. 18

IX. Macroeconomics, Ch.9.  
Other Modules if time  

Objective: Understand that macroeconomic factors affect the Agricultural sector costs and returns particularly through the interest rate and exchange rate.

A. Macroeconomics  
B. Net Income Accounts  
C. Value of Goods and Services  
D. Tools of Macroeconomics  
E. Macroeconomic linkages to Agriculture
X. Agricultural Price and Income Policies, Ch.11.

Objective: Understand the importance of public policy in agricultural markets. Recognize the basis for policy programs directed at Ag., and the process of policy development and implementation.

A. Federal Price and Income Programs
B. Values of Farm People
C. Farm Problems
D. Farm Programs
E. Income Benefits of Agriculture Programs
F. Alternative Programs
G. The Process of Policy Development

XI. Other Chapters as Time Permits

Grading Policy
AGBS2361 grades will be based on the following items:
. Quizzes, (6 or 7): 100%
   These quizzes are pre scheduled and specified in the syllabus.

Final Grade Scale: A =100-90; B =89-80; C =79-70; D =69-60; F <60.

Attendance Policy
SFA AG DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY POLICY (reference university policy, 6.7)

Attendance and punctuality are core skills to have as an engaged student and for a successful career. Therefore, all agriculture faculty have adopted the following policy for unexcused absences.

☐ Miss one lecture OR lab period, no letter grade reduction
☐ Miss two lecture OR lab periods, drop one letter grade
☐ Miss three lecture OR lab periods, fail the course

For reference, below are examples of excused absences.
1.) Approved University activities (require documentation from sponsor and advanced notice)
2.) Death or major illness of an immediate family member (requires documentation and notice as soon as possible)
3.) Major illness of yourself (requires a doctor’s note).

Students missing classes, other than for university-sponsored trips, should contact the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) and request that an absence notification be sent to the instructor(s). The notification is not an excuse, and is not evaluated by OSRR. The
notification is only provided as a courtesy to the student and the student's instructor(s). If you miss class for any other reason and feel your absence should be excused, you must provide me with a typed memo explaining why the absence should be excused and provide appropriate documentation. This memo must be provided within one week of the absence. All other absences are considered unexcused.

**PUNCTUALITY POLICY**
All Ag faculty take attendance at the beginning of their classes. Tardy attendance will be counted as unexcused absences at the discretion of the professor.

**Mental Health**
SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support student’s mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

2. **Make-up Exams**
   A. Make-up exams will be given only to those individuals who have a valid excuse and have notified me ahead of time. **All make-up exams will be administered at the end of the session**

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or
attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

**Plagiarism:** to appropriate (literary materials, ideas, etc) and represent it as one’s own work

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

Students proven to have cheated on assignments, quizzes and/or exams (includes plagiarism) will fail the entire semester course.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Responsible Use of Technology:** It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop or tablet computers, MP3 players, and related devices outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop/tablet for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties.

**Acceptable Classroom Behavior:** Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic/online forums, classroom meetings, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare program [http://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp). This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**FACE COVERING:** encouraged for now

**Students with Disabilities**
— To obtain disability related accommodations and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Wisely Hall, Room 104, 468-3004/ 468-1004 (TDD) as soon as possible. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)
I have received a copy of the syllabus for AEC 261 Agricultural Economics, which outlines course description, text required, assignment policy, instructor office hours, topic sequence, grading and attendance policy, disability accommodations, exam schedule and make-up exam considerations.

Signature _________________________

Date ____________________________

Print name here ___________________