SYLLABUS
Agricultural Finance, AGBS 3344

Spring, 2024

Dr. Leland C. Thompson
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936-468-3705
Room 115 Agricultural Building
Office Hours:
Department of Agriculture
Lecture: 11:00 to 12:15 TR
Ag. Building Rm 117

AGRICULTURAL FINANCE: Capital requirements of farm and ranch operation; agricultural credit needs; time value of money; investment analysis; sources of capital and agricultural lender requirements; costs, risk, and institutional environment of agricultural credit.

Student Learning Outcomes
(1) To familiarize the student with basic principles of Agricultural Finance.
(2) To familiarize the student with methods of financial management of the farm and ranch business.
(3) To orient the student to the workings of financial markets and agricultural credit institutions.

Course Requirements: Classes begin Jan. 18
1) Readings in the textbook as specified by the syllabus
2) Homework assignments (recorded)
3) Examinations:
   Exam #1 Feb. 15th
   Exam #2 March 7th
   Exam #3 April 16
   Exam #4 May 7 10:30am

OUT of PRINT: find if you can and I will provide some resources.
Course sequence, Topics and Objectives

CHAPTER

I Chapter 1. Introduction to the Dimensions of Agricultural Finance

Objective: To understand that income from the modern farm business is determined by acquisition, control, and allocation of farm resources.

II Chapter 2. Theory of Financial Management

Objective: Recognize that successful financial management relies on responsible management decision-making about needs and uses of capital.

III Chapter 3. Capital Allocation over Time

Objective: Become familiar with the concepts related to the optimal allocation of capital over time, and the time value of money.

IV. Exam #1: Feb. 15

V Chapter 4. Evaluating Capital Investments

Objective: Understand the economic criteria for determining the optimal allocation of limited capital among competing uses.

VI Chapter 5. Resource Acquisition and Control in Agriculture

Objective: Be aware of alternative methods of acquiring control of sufficient assets for a viable farm business.

VI. and VII Exam #2: March 7

VIII. Spring Break: March 9 thru 17

IX. Chapter 6. Use of Credit in the Farm Business

Objective: Understand that credit is a productive resource for the farm business. Its use depends on how it can be used profitably and the type of credit available.

X. Chapter 7. Loan Interest Rates and Repayment Terms

Objective: To obtain a solid understanding of factors affecting interest rates, determinants of repayment schedules, and actual costs of capital.

XI. Exam #3: April 16

XII. – XV. Chapters 8, 9, 10 Financial Structure and Returns Analysis
Objective: Maintenance and use of records to measure the financial performance of the farm business.

XII- XIII. Chapter 13. Risk Management Strategies

Objective: To familiarize the student with sources of risk faced by farmers, and methods of reducing risk.

Final Exam May 7 10:30

Objective: To provide an overview of the nature, scope, and importance of alternative sources of agricultural credit.

XII- XV. Chapter 20. Commercial Banks and Farm Loans

Objective: The student should be aware of the structure and function of commercial banks in providing capital to the agricultural sector.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURE

1. Class Attendance
   A. Class attendance is advised. The role will be checked
   B. Students are expected to remain in class until I arrive or are notified that I will not be coming.

2. Examinations -- 100 percent of your final grade
   A. Four (4) exams will be given each semester
   B. Exam questions will include multiple-choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and discussion types of questions.
   C. The forth (4th) and final exam will have one-half of the questions on the most recent material, and the other half over the entire semester's work.
   D. 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 during dead week, (the week before finals).
3. **Grading**: Simple average of the four (4) exams.

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

   **NOTE**: It is the student’s responsibility to get grades before drop deadline.

**Attendance Policy**

**DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

**SFA AG DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY POLICY** (referencing university policy, 6.7)

Attendance and punctuality are core skills to have as an engaged student and for a successful career.

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.

Excused absence from an exam can be made up. Unexcused absence from an exam cannot be made up.

**Academic Integrity (4.1)**

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.
Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Course Grades Policy (5.5)
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. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/5.5_course-grades.pdf

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy (6.1)
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. 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/

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

Acceptable Student 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 10.4). 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, classroom, 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 Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct_10.4.pdf

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
**The Dean of Students Office** (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic** Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

**The Health and Wellness Hub** “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

**Crisis Resources:**

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)

johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
I have received a copy of the syllabus for AGBS3344 Agricultural Finance, 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 ___________________