

AAEC 4316 – AGRICULTURAL FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Syllabus • General Course Information • Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Craig Blackwell
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OFFICE HOURS: 11:00-12:00 TR or by appointment

I have an open door policy, so stop in to see me anytime. If I am unable to meet with you at that time we will schedule an appointment.

TIME & LOCATION: 9:30-10:50 a.m. TR, Ag Sc 308

TEXT: No required text.

Supplemental Text

Financial Guidelines For Agricultural Producers II. Farm Financial Standards Council, 1997. (Available online at <http://www.ffsc.org/html/guidelin.htm>)

Additional readings will be handed out in class, placed on the web page, or placed in the Reference Room. Certain course materials will be provided on a password protected web site accessible through TTU WebCT.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES: The objective of this course is to present principles and procedures in managing financial and credit resources. Topics such as financial statement preparation and interpretation, credit analysis, credit instruments, and financial theories relating to capital structure and investment analysis will be introduced with an emphasis for decision-making in borrowing/lending and financial management/analysis. Specific learning outcomes for students taking this course include:

- Be able to construct a set of integrated financial statements for an agricultural business.
- Be able to analyze financial condition and performance using financial criteria and measures.
- Be able to evaluate and analyze financial information for management and credit decisions.
- Understand the interrelationship between business and financial risk and demonstrate how risk management tools can be used to manage risk.
- After completing this course students will be able to apply financial analysis concepts to agribusiness management and credit management decisions. Students will also have an understanding of risk and how risk management tools may be used to manage a business's overall risk position.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES: Learning objectives in this course will be assessed through exams, in-class application activities, graded and non-graded quizzes and homework, class discussion, and polling the class. These assessments will specifically assess students' learning with respect to the application of concepts and evaluation of results. A rubric rating approach using unacceptable, adequate and superior classifications will be used to assess the learning outcomes. The overall goal in this course is for the entire class to achieve on average an acceptable rubric rating for each of the specific learning outcomes.

CLASS ORGANIZATION: The class organization is lecture and discussion. High levels of participation are expected as your input will help shape the course to be of greatest value. Some additional materials will be provided in class. There will be homework assignments that parallel course materials to reinforce concepts and help identify weaknesses in lecture coverage and student comprehension. Several case studies will be assigned to further bring together the material into a decision based format.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: I will keep track of attendance throughout the semester, however attendance does not figure directly into your course grade. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to make-up any missed assignments. It is well established that class attendance will positively affect your grade.

CLASS PREPARATION: You are expected to come to class prepared by reading and doing relevant assignments prior to class. You are expected and encouraged to ask questions in class, be in class on time, and be prepared to discuss assigned topics.

INTERNET RESOURCES: A course web page will be maintained at:

http://www.aaec.ttu.edu/faculty/phijohns/AAEC 4316/index_new.htm

The course web page provides certain class materials, such as the syllabus, lecture notes, homework assignments, and spreadsheet files. You are encouraged to download the notes from the web page before the lecture. However, having the notes from the web does not substitute for class attendance. The notes are provided to make your class time more productive.

TESTS: Two mid-term exams will be given and a final exam. You will be responsible for all material assigned and covered since the previous exam. Tests are essay type and require a Blue Book.

Tentative exam dates are: Exam I – February 27 and Exam II - April 10. The final exam will be comprehensive and is scheduled for **Friday, May 9 at 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

Calculators may be used for exams. Missed exams will be given a grade of zero unless adequate evidence is presented - preferably BEFORE the exam - that missing the exam cannot be avoided.

POLICY ON MISSED EXAMS: Missed exams will be given a grade of zero unless adequate evidence is presented - preferably BEFORE the exam - that missing the exam cannot be avoided. If you miss class and you have an official excuse (your Doctor or the Dean's office) you may make arrangements to makeup the exam.

HOMEWORK & QUIZZES: Homework assignments will be given over several topics. Homework assignment grades will be docked **5 points** for each day they are late. Failure to hand in homework assignments will result in a zero being given for that assignment. Short quizzes may be given covering material from previous classes and/or assigned material.

GRADING:

Exam I	25%
Exam II	25%
Homework, Quizzes and Case Studies	25%
Final Exam	25%
	100%

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services Office in 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Any form of academic dishonesty (i.e. cheating, plagiarism) will not be tolerated. Refer to the Student Affairs Handbook, Part IX Code of Student Conduct.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT: Talking and disrupting class will not be tolerated. Turn off cell phones and pagers during lecture, do not read newspapers or other materials during class.

CLASSROOM RULES AND BEHAVIOR:
Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics

Students are expected to show respect to classmates, instructors, and especially guest speakers. Consistent with the stated assumptions and beliefs of Texas Tech University, the department has composed and the AAEC Student Association has endorsed the following set of rules for appropriate student classroom behavior.

1. Do not side talk during class meetings. Talking is disruptive to the instructor and to your fellow classmates. Do ask questions and participate in class discussion.
2. Try to arrive for class on time. Leaving the classroom during class meetings can be disruptive, so keep this to an absolute minimum. Exceptions may occur for medical emergency, physiological urgency or situations where prior instructor approval has been granted.
3. Do not use (including viewing of) communication devices (phones, etc.) during class meetings. All electronic devices should be silenced during class meetings.
4. Do not read/view other unassigned materials (newspapers, magazines, etc.) during class meetings.