



AGEC 4253 Agricultural Prices Fall 2019

Instructor:	Dr. Sunil P. Dhoubhadel
Section # and CRN:	Section P01, CRN 13892
Office Location:	New Agriculture and Business Multipurpose Building, Room 309
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Office Hours:	3:00 PM – 4:30 PM Monday-Thursday or by an appointment
Mode of Instruction:	Face-to-face
Course Location:	New Agriculture and Business Multipurpose Building, Room 216
Class Days & Times:	9 - 9:50 AM MWF
Prerequisites:	This is a math based price analysis course. Therefore, a math background at pre-calculus or higher level and microeconomic theory at the freshmen/intermediate level is required. Course prerequisites: MATH 113 and AGECE 1233 or Econ 2113
Co-requisites:	None
Required Texts:	Title: Agricultural Marketing and Price Analysis Author: F. Bailey Norwood, Jayson L. Lusk Publisher: Waveland Press, Inc 2008 ISBN 10: 1-4786-3711-0 ISBN 13: 978-1-4786-3711-0
Recommended Text:	Title: Agricultural Markets and Prices Author: Darren Hudson Publisher: Blackwell Publishing 2007 ISBN 10: 1-4051-3667-7 ISBN 13: 978-1-4051-3667-9

Student Learning Outcomes:			
	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Program Learning Outcome # Alignment	Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment
1	Gain general understanding of how prices are determined in agricultural markets		
2	Analyze agricultural markets and prices under various market structure		

3	Understand food marketing channel in the United States and analyze its implications for various market outcomes		
4	Understand agricultural commodity markets and apply the concept for price risk management		
5	Gain general understanding of U.S. agricultural trade in the global context		

Major Course Requirements			
Method of Determining Final Course Grade			
Course Grade Requirement	Description	Weight (%)	Points
Exams	Four exams will be given. The scheduling of each exam will be as shown in the semester schedule below.	48%	400
Homework Assignments	Four homework assignments will be assigned. The scheduling of each homework will be as shown in the semester schedule below.	38%	400
Paper	The topic and detailed rubric will be posted on the ecourses	10%	100
Class attendance and participation	Regular attendance will be taken in the class. See attendance policy below	4%	45
Total:		100%	945

Course Policies
Grading Policy
Each Student's final score will be determined by the weighted average of the percentage of total points possible. Therefore, students should pay attention to the weighted percentage course total displayed on Ecourses to evaluate their performance in the class. The Final grade for each student will then be set as follows: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D below 60% = F. The instructor reserves the right to adjust these breaks between letter grades up or down as needed to account for median scores, ranges, and natural breaks in the final score distribution. Dates and times of all exams will be announced in the class
Exam and Homework Policy:
The instructor will announce the dates of all exams. No make-up exam will be given unless in cases of extreme emergency or illness or absences related to university approved field trips and institutionally sponsored activities (athletics, tours, etc.). If a student cannot be in attendance for an exam, he or she must notify the instructor two or more days before the exam. Otherwise, the student will not be permitted to make it up. Exceptions will be made only in cases of extreme emergency or illness and if notification of such emergencies or illness is given to the instructor within one day after the exam.
Students are required to complete the homework assignments within the stipulated deadline. The instructor will announce the due dates when the assignments are posted. A penalty will be applied to all late submissions.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all lectures and actively participate in the class. Attendance will be taken on a regular basis. Students will be allowed up to three unexcused absences without a penalty. The final course grade percentage will be lowered by 0.5 percentage point for each absence over three absences. Attendance will be recorded on time-sheets and students are required to sign in for every lecture. Cell phones must be turned off during the lecture. Use of computer and the internet for other than the class purposes are strictly prohibited. Food, drinks, and tobacco products are not allowed in the class.

Contact Policy:

If you have any questions on class materials, lectures, homework or exams, do not hesitate to ask a question during the class or see me during my office hours. You may also send me an email. I will try my best to respond to your email on the same day unless there are some other urgent issues to address. If you send email in the late evenings, the response can be delayed until the next morning. Always include AGEC 4253 on the subject line. If you want to discuss the issue by phone, you may call during the office hours or leave a message during off-hours and I will contact you as soon as possible.

Communication:

I will extensively use Ecourses for this course. Any announcements related to class will be via Ecourses so you should regularly check your Ecourses account and the university email accounts. All course materials will be regularly posted on Ecourses.

Semester Calendar

This is a tentative calendar. Actual coverage and due dates can change subject to the class progress.

Week	Topics	Reading	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction to the course and about economics	Chap 1 slides and the corresponding book chapters	None
Week 2	Introduction to the course and about economics Basic Price Analysis	Chap 1 slides and the corresponding book chapters Chap 2 slides and the corresponding book chapters	None
Week 3	Basic Price Analysis	Chap 2 slides and the corresponding book chapters	Homework 1
Week 4	Exam 1 review Exam 1	Chap 1-2 slides and the corresponding book chapters	None
Week 5	Advanced Price Analysis I	Chap 3 slides and the corresponding book chapters	None
Week 6	Advanced Price Analysis I continue	Chap 3 slides and the corresponding book chapters	None
Week 7	Advanced Price Analysis II	Chap 4 slides and the corresponding book chapters	Homework 2
Week 8	Exam 2 review Exam 2	Chap 3-4 slides and the corresponding book chapters	None
Week 9	Agricultural Prices	Chap 5 slides and the corresponding book chapters	None
Week 10	The Food Marketing Channel Price Analysis	Chap 6 slides and the corresponding book chapters	None
Week 11	International Agricultural Trade Analysis	Chap 8 slides and the corresponding book chapters	Homework 3
Week 12	Exam 3 review Exam 3	Chap 5,6, and 8 slides and the corresponding book chapters	None
Week 13	Basics of Futures and Options Market	Corresponding slides and the pdf book chapter posted	None

Week	Topics	Reading	Assignments
Week 14	Basics of Futures and Options Market	Corresponding slides and the pdf book chapter posted	Homework 4
Week 15	Exam 4 review	Futures and options slides and the pdf book chapter posted	None
Week 16	Exam 4	Futures and options slides and the pdf book chapter posted	Term Paper

Student Support and Success

John B. Coleman Library

The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. <https://www.pvamu.edu/library/>
Phone: 936-261-1500

The Learning Curve (Center for Academic Support)

The Learning Curve offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and testtaking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Learning Curve is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 207F. Phone: 936-261-1561

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS)

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, CampusWide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-2611040

Writing Center

The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Students taking on-line courses or courses at the Northwest Houston Center or College of Nursing may consult remotely or by email. Location: Hilliard Hall Rm. 121. Phone: 936-261-3724.

Student Counseling Services

The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and provides assistance to students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Owens-Franklin Health Center Rm. 226. Phone: 936-261-3564

Testing

The Department of Testing administers College Board CLEP examinations, the HESI A2 for pre-nursing majors, LSAT for law school applicants and MPRE for second-year law students, the Experiential Learning Portfolio option, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment, which determines college readiness in the state, and exam proctoring, among other service such as SAT and ACT for high school students. Location: Delco Rm. 141. Phone: 936-261-4286

Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services

As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include: learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, Kurtzweil, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 317. Phone: 936-261-3585

Veteran Affairs

Veterans Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 323. Phone: 936-261-3563

Office for Student Engagement

The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the cocurricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center Rm. 221. Phone: 936-261-1340

Career Services

Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 217. Phone: 936-261-3570

University Rules and Procedures

Disability Statement (Also See Student Handbook):

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Evans Hall, Room 317, or call 936-261-3585/3.

Academic Misconduct (See Student Handbook):

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Handbook)

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive

behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual Misconduct (See Student Handbook):

Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Title IX Statement

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is committed to supporting students and complying with the Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, the faculty member must report the basic facts of your experience to Ms. Alexia Taylor, PVAMU's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can assist you with understanding your options and connect you with on- and off-campus resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone at 936-261-2123 or in Suite 013 in the A.I. Thomas Administration Building.

Class Attendance Policy (See Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or internet.

Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University's attendance policy in each course syllabus.

Student Academic Appeals Process

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:

- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 7; Mac with OS X; Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi High speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit Sound card
- w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer or Firefox

Note: Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups in the Web browser preferences

Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:

- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word) Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
- Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette):

Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others on discussions boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

Technical Support:

Students should go to <https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/> if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3283

Communication Expectations and Standards:

Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.

Discussion Requirement:

Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can take place in a seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of the discussion board. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it/they should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.