
AREC 408 SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. James Pritchett

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Need technical assistance with your RamCT Blackboard course? Try the following:

- Visit the [Help Desk](#) web page to troubleshoot common browser and Java issues.
- Call 970-491-7276.
- Email [Help Desk Support](#).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What financial tools are necessary for the manager of a sole proprietorship or a medium-sized agribusiness? This course focuses attention on the tools of managerial finance: analysis of financial statements, ratio analysis and benchmarking, profitability analysis, debt management, capital budgeting and risk management. We'll emphasize problem solving, critical decision making and interpretation of information with homework and lab assignments.

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

AREC 305/EA 305 Enterprise Analysis

COURSE GOALS

Upon the completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Develop skills to understand, analyze and communicate the financial standing of a sole proprietorship and/or medium sized firm as well as the industry of Agriculture.
- Become better acquainted with how a firm's financial information (line items, statements and ratios) are indicators of performance, and how changes in performance result from the manager's allocation of resources or factors beyond the firm's control.
- Understand the credit evaluation process from the lender's perspective. Calculate loan payment schedules, loan interest rates, and examine the creditworthiness of the firm and pledged collateral.
- Explore the role that debt financing plays in a firm's growth and solvency.

- Characterize financial risk in a firm, and understand how balancing production activities might lead to risk mitigation via diversification.
- Gain a firm grasp of time value of money concepts, and then apply these concepts to capital budgeting, lease versus buy decisions, optimal asset replacement and real estate appraisal.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Barry, P., P. Ellinger and B. Sherrick. *Financial Management in Agriculture*. Seventh Edition. Pearson Prentice Hall. Upper Saddle River, NJ: 2012. ISBN-13: 9780135037591/ ISBN: 013503759X

OTHER REQUIRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Additional readings are provided electronically on the course website.

COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES

The course is organized into 15 modules that generally take a week to complete. The modules include lecture materials, readings from the textbook or other electronic resources, homework assignments, discussion posts and module quiz assessments. Students should complete all module work before proceeding to the next module. Students may work ahead, but will not be able to take exams in advance unless otherwise directed by the instructor.

GRADING

As a student enrolled in this course, one of your responsibilities is to submit course work by the due dates listed in the Course Schedule. With that said, I take my role as your instructor very seriously, and, in fact, I care about how well you do in this course and that you have a satisfying, rewarding experience.

To that end, it is my commitment to you to respond individually to the work you submit in this class and to return your work in a timely manner. Smaller, weekly assignments and quizzes will be returned within 7 days and major assignments, exams, and essays will be returned within 10 days. If, however, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading of your work takes longer than the times I have listed here, I will keep you informed of my progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as I can.

COURSE ACTIVITIES DETAILS

Three opportunities are offered in order to reinforce skills and competencies discussed in a class:

MODULE EXERCISES AND QUIZZES

Periodic exercises will be used in class to apply agribusiness finance concepts. These exercises are graded and may be individual or group projects. Exercises will also include problems and readings from the textbook. Short quizzes may also be given without warning.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

A set of homework assignments will be completed using Excel. Importantly, lab assignment grades will require both successful completion of the homework objectives and the student's ability to effectively communicate and interpret answers to questions. Effective written communication will be important in your future endeavors!

EXAMS

Exams are a terrific opportunity to display your skills. Exams are tentatively scheduled for the following weeks, but may be rescheduled by the instructor if it enhances learning opportunities. These exams are to be proctored, and we'll need to arrange the proctoring location with you.

- Exam I: February 10
- Exam II: March 8
- Exam III: April 14
- Final Exam: May 12

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Active participation of thin this course is expected. Successful students spend a minimum of nine hours per week reading, completing assignments and studying course materials. Students are expected to participate in discussion posts as they are assigned in the class.

GRADES

Final grades will be assigned based on weighted point accumulations as follows: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D= 60-69%; F = <60%. Pluses and minuses will be awarded within each category at the instructors' discretion.

MAKE UP POLICY

Course assignments may not be made up if deadlines are missed. If extenuating circumstances apply, the student must contact the instructor in advance.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity [Policies and Guiding Principles](#) as found in the General Catalog and the [Student Conduct Code](#).

- Cheating—includes using unauthorized sources of information and providing or receiving unauthorized assistance on any form of academic work or engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by the faculty member.
- Plagiarism—includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one's own without proper acknowledgment.
- Unauthorized Possession or Disposition of Academic Materials—includes the unauthorized selling or purchasing of examinations or other academic work; stealing another student's work; unauthorized entry to or use of material in a computer file; and using information from or possessing exams that an instructor did not authorize for release to students.
- Falsification—includes any untruth, either verbal or written, in one's academic work.
- Facilitation—includes knowingly assisting another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

CSU HONOR PLEDGE

Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Because academic integrity, and the personal and social integrity of which academic integrity is an integral part, is so central to our mission as students, teachers, scholars, and citizens, I will ask that you affirm the CSU Honor Pledge as part of completing your work in this course. *While you will not be required to affirm the honor pledge*, you will be asked to affirm the following statement at the start of your exams:

"I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."

Further information about Academic Integrity is available at CSU's [Practicing Academic Integrity](#).

SYSTEM, MULTIMEDIA, AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

Having trouble with the multimedia in this course? See the solutions below. Also, it is highly recommended that you access your course via a **high-speed Internet connection**.

- Problems with opening PDFs?
 - Download [Adobe Reader](#).
- RamCT Blackboard acting funny?
 - Download the correct version of [Java](#) for RamCT Blackboard.
- YouTube videos not playing?
 - Download [Flash Player](#).
- Videos not opening or playing on your Mac?
 - Download [Windows Media Components for QuickTime](#).

- Can't open content created with Microsoft Office Products? Download the following viewers:
 - [Word Viewer](#)
 - [PowerPoint Viewer](#)
 - [Excel Viewer](#)
 - [Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel, and PowerPoint File Formats](#)
- Still having issues:
 - Call the **CSU Help Desk at 970-491-7276** or [Email Help Desk Support](#)

You must have speakers installed and working properly on your computer before beginning the course.

You may need access to Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and/or Excel to complete assignments. If you do not have access to the Microsoft Office applications, you may use one of the following free resources that allow you to save your files with Microsoft Office file extensions (.doc, .docs, .ppt, .xls.):

- [Google Apps for CSU](#)—a free, outsourced communications suite endorsed by The University Technology Fee Advisory Board (UTFAB)
- [Open Office](#)—an open source productivity suite

SUGGESTED STUDY METHODS

Online education requires skills and habits that may be less essential in traditional courses. In order to be successful in your online course you will need:

- Space—Establish a comfortable and well-organized physical workplace.
- Time management skills—Set personal study and "classroom" time as you would do for a traditional course.
- Organization skills—Print out all class material (modules, PowerPoints, assignments, additional resources, and any work you generate) and keep everything in a single location. Maintain electronic backups of all class materials.
- Communication skills—Demonstrate a willingness to interact with your instructor and classmates through email, phone calls, discussion boards, and active participation in all class activities.
- Initiative—Seek help from your instructor and classmates, ask questions as they arise.
- Discipline—Pace yourself, complete all activities and assignments before the due date, follow through on all class requirements to completion.

The more closely you adhere to the recommendations above the greater your chances of having a successful semester and a rewarding online experience.