University of Florida
Food and Resource Economics Department

AEB3103 Principles of Food and Resource Economics

Fall Term 2012

Section: 2518
4 Credit Hours

MTWR 12:50pm – 1:40pm
Classroom: MCCA (McCarty Hall A) G186

Instructor and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Mikael Sandberg
Office: 1179 McCarty Hall A
Phone: (352) 294-7637
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:30am – 11:30am, and Thursday 2:00pm – 4:00pm
E-mail: sandberg@ufl.edu

Given other professional obligations this term, availability outside of posted office hours will be limited. However, if posted office hours are not convenient, please feel free to e-mail me in advance for an appointment.

11:30am – 12:50pm is reserved for administrative duties, preparing for classes, and lunch. Please do not disturb.

Many students find that e-mail is an efficient and fast way to ask questions. Students should note that I do not utilize the e-mail tool within E-Learning Sakai. When e-mailing me, please indicate in which class you are enrolled so that I can more effectively address your concerns. Courteous and professional e-mails can expect a prompt reply. Undergraduate academic advising is handled by Ms. Anne Marie Mattison, see contact information below.

FRE Program Assistant: Ms. Kathy Green; 1197 McCarty Hall A; (352) 294-7640; E-mail: kagreen1@ufl.edu

Undergraduate Advisor: Ms. Anne Marie Mattison; 1195 McCarty Hall A; (352) 294-7638; E-mail: mattison@ufl.edu

AEB3103 Teaching Assistant: Mr. Ayuba Seidu; 1172 McCarty Hall A; E-mail: aseidu@ufl.edu; Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am – 11:00am.

Dr. Sandberg reserves the right to change the terms and dates stated in this Course Syllabus at any time. Any changes will be communicated in class, via the Gatorlink e-mail listserv, and posted on E-Learning Sakai. It is solely the student’s responsibility to stay informed of any changes.
General Course Information

ISBN: 978-1-4292-8342-7
- You will need a copy of the book.

E-Learning Sakai: There is an E-Learning Sakai web-page for this course. To access E-Learning Sakai, you will need your Gatorlink username and password. E-Learning Sakai can be accessed via https://lss.at.ufl.edu/. If you are having difficulties accessing E-Learning Sakai, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by calling (352) 392-HELP or via e-mail helpdesk@ufl.edu. You will need your UFID when contacting them. Please note that the E-learning Sakai site might not be operational until the end of the first week of the semester.

Course Description: An introduction to the field of food and resource economics; principles of economics as applied to agriculture; economic problems of the agricultural industry and the individual farmer. (S)

...which means: AEB 3103 is a comprehensive and rigorous economics course. This course is designed to give Food and Resource Economics students a strong foundation in economic theory. These theoretical concepts and methodologies are building blocks for further courses within the Food and Resource Economics major.

This is NOT an agricultural course per se. Rather, this course is designed to acquaint students with the ‘economic way of thinking’ and to familiarize students with the methods and tools of modern economic analysis. These tools will enable students to critically evaluate and analyze economic issues encountered in agriculture, politics, business, and in their everyday lives. AEB3103 will thoroughly review the microeconomic fundamentals that govern the theory of the consumer, consumer choice, production economics, economic theory of the firm, the functioning of markets, agricultural production, and international trade.

This is an upper-division course and it will be structured and taught accordingly. The rigorous nature of this course means you should plan on spending about, on average, two hours of studying outside of class for every hour of lecture time. Thus, given that this is a four-credit course, you should spend about eight hours per week studying for this course alone. During exam weeks the time-commitment will be significantly higher.

Prerequisites: MAC2233 or MAC2311 (or the equivalent). Since calculus is a formal prerequisite for this course, AEB3103 will be taught with the assumption that all students are comfortable with quantitative reasoning, analytical methods, graphs, and algebra. Previous exposure to economics is not necessary.

Attendance and related issues: Attending class is a prerequisite for doing well in this course. Since this is the foundation course for the Food and Resource Economics major, students are assumed to be highly committed to this course. We are going to proceed at a rather quick pace. Given the nature and quantity of material covered, missing class will detrimentally impact your performance in this course. Formal attendance, however, will not be taken. It is further assumed that students will arrive to class on-time. Class will promptly start at 12:50pm. Arriving late or leaving early without prior consent is NOT tolerated and is considered unprofessional.
Course Structure and Material Covered

Course Objectives: AEB3103 has seven main course objectives. After the successful completion of this course, students should:
1. …be able to access economic news and events with greater sophistication;
2. …understand the microeconomic principles and fundamentals underlying consumer behavior;
3. …understand the microeconomic principles and fundamentals underlying firm behavior;
4. …be able to analyze the impact of government policies on consumers and firms;
5. …understand the distributional issues involved in economic decision making;
6. …understand the effects of international trade on consumers and producers;
7. …have the economic foundations necessary to succeed in the Food and Resource Economics major;

These objectives are accomplished by developing an understanding of…
- the basic tools and methodologies of modern economic analysis;
- the role of economic institutions;
- the dynamics of markets;
- the role of supply and demand in price determination and resource allocation;
- the nature and implications of elasticity;
- the economics behind international trade and commercial interactions between nations;
- the microeconomic effects of government policy;
- the economic principles behind individual decision making;
- the strategic interaction between economic agents;
- production theory and the economics behind firm behavior;
- the economic principle of profit maximization and how firms achieve this goal;
- the specific economic considerations of the agricultural and food sector.

Economics is a fascinating discipline to study. However, there are some misapprehensions about what economists actually do. Ultimately, economics is about understanding behavior and gaining insight into the world that surrounds us. To cope with the complexities of the ‘real world’ and the unique idiosyncrasies of human interactions, economists use models to illustrate (and to understand) behavior.

An economic model is an abstract, simplified version of reality where the relevant characteristics are emphasized and immaterial information is removed, i.e., a model removes the ‘clutter.’ The notion of model building is a central one to modern economic analysis. A successful economics student is one that realizes the usefulness of economic models and the unique insight they provide. However, mastering the ‘economic way of thinking’ takes practice, and lots of it! To many students, this is a new approach of viewing the world – an approach that some students will find frustrating at first, especially in a world where instant gratification is expected and economic “news” and “information” are dispersed at ever increasing frequency (and from increasingly biased and dubious sources). Economics, however, is more about working with models to gain insight about human behavior than it is to simply keeping up with the latest business headlines. While current events or real world data do provide (some) preliminary ways of assessing the appropriateness and validity of economic models, the central focus of this course is on model building. This, incidentally, reflects my approach to economics and the way that I structure and teach this course.
**Tentative Course Outline:** Please note that the instructor reserves the right to change this outline at any time. Revisions may be substantial. Any modifications will be announced in class and posted on E-Learning Sakai.

I. **Scope and Methods of Modern Economics**
   - **Introduction:** The Ordinary Business of Life
   - **Chapter 1:** First Principles
   - **Chapter 2:** Economic Models: Trade-Offs and Trade

II. **Markets and Price Formation: Supply and Demand**
   - **Chapter 3:** Supply and Demand
   - **Chapter 4:** Consumer and Producer Surplus
   - **Chapter 5:** Price Controls and Quotas: Meddling with Markets
   - **Chapter 6:** Elasticity

III. **Extensions: International Trade and Agriculture**
   - **Chapter 8:** International Trade
   - **Handout:** Agricultural Markets

IV. **Economic Analysis of Decision Making**
   - **Chapter 10:** The Rational Consumer

V. **Economic Analysis of the Firm and Firm Behavior**
   - **Chapter 11:** Behind the Supply Curve: Inputs and Costs
   - **Chapter 12:** Perfect Competition and the Supply Curve
   - **Chapter 13:** Monopoly
   - **Chapter 14:** Oligopoly
   - **Chapter 15:** Monopolistic Competition and Product Differentiation

‘End-of-Chapter’ Review Problems: Each chapter in the textbook is accompanied by numerous study and review problems. The complete solutions and explanations for ALL of these problems are posted on E-Learning Sakai (in PDF format) under the ‘Solutions’ tab on your left. Some of these problems may require you to read the chapter before attempting to solve them (and some of them are quite challenging!). Note: these exercises are NOT to be turned in; rather they are assigned to help you learn the material.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page Range</th>
<th>Recommended ‘Problems’</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>23 – 24</td>
<td>2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>45 – 48</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>97 – 99</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>124 – 126</td>
<td>1, 3, 7, 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>150 – 154</td>
<td>2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>176 – 179</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 14, 17</td>
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<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>240 – 242</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>287 – 290</td>
<td>2, 5, 7, 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>340 – 343</td>
<td>2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 13, 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>369 – 371</td>
<td>1, 3, 7, 9, 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td>402 – 405</td>
<td>4, 6, 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
<td>428 – 431</td>
<td>1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 15</td>
<td>450 – 451</td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 12</td>
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Evaluation of Performance and Grading

Grades: You have the opportunity to earn up to 300 points throughout the semester. Your final grade for AEB3103 will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sum of highest two</th>
<th>200 possible points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term exams (@ 100 points each)</td>
<td>200 possible points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100 possible points</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>300 possible points</td>
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Final course grades will have the following benchmarks out of the 300 possible grade points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>(≥ 279)</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>(219 - 230)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>(270 - 278)</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>(210 - 218)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>(261 - 269)</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>(201 - 209)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>(249 - 260)</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>(189 - 200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>(240 - 248)</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>(180 - 188)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>(231 - 239)</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>(≤ 179)</td>
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Please note that grades are not ‘rounded’ or ‘adjusted’ at the end of the term. Haggling over grades at the end of the semester is NOT entertained. Of course, if I did a mistake in grading your exam I will gladly give you the correct points. If you believe that your exam is incorrectly graded or that your grade is incorrectly posted, please contact me via e-mail (i.e., in writing) as soon as possible. You have 7 days after the grade has been posted to voice your concern. After 7 days have passed, your posted grade will be assumed to be correct and accurate.

For general information about grading and grading policy at the University of Florida, please refer to: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html.

Exams: There will be three regular exams (‘Mid-term exams’) offered during the semester for AEB3103. Each exam is worth 100 points. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions with the possibility of a few essay/short-answer/problem-solving questions. The exams may be based on material covered in class, material from the book, or concepts implied by the material covered. There will be material on the exams from the book that has not explicitly been covered in class (after all, this is an upper-division course).

You two highest mid-term exam grades count towards your final course grade for a total of 200 points, see the above rubric (2 exams @ 100 points each). Each exam is scheduled for 50 minutes. The exam dates are specified in this course syllabus (see next page).

The exams are closed book and closed notes. A simple calculator may be used. However, graphing calculators, cell phones, touch-screen devices, calculators with more than one display row, or other devices with the capability to store formulae are not allowed. This policy will be STRICTLY enforced during exams. Sharing calculators during an exam is not allowed. Thus, if you do not own a simple calculator, you will need to purchase one. If you are unsure whether or not your calculator is acceptable for use in AEB3103, please consult with the instructor as soon as possible.
Final Exam: A comprehensive mandatory Final Exam is given during the final exam week, **Thursday December 13 at 7:30am**! Please make note of the time. The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions. The Final Exam is given in our regular classroom. The Final Exam will last for two hours. All students are required to take the Final Exam and it will count as 33.3% of your final course grade, regardless of your performance on the previous three exams. The Final Exam **cannot** be dropped.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Exam Dates:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam 1:</td>
<td>Monday October 1 at 12:50pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam 2:</td>
<td>Tuesday October 30 at 12:50pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam 3:</td>
<td>Monday December 3 at 12:50pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>Thursday December 13 at 7:30am (Please note the time of the Final Exam!)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The instructor reserves the right to change these dates as appropriate. Any changes will be communicated via E-Learning Sakai and via the Gatorlink listserv.

Make-Up Exams: Make-up exams are **not** given. Should you miss any of the mid-term exams, that exam score is simply dropped (i.e., your two highest mid-term grades count in the calculation of your final course grade). This policy applies regardless of reason for missing a mid-term. Should you miss the FINAL EXAM for a documented emergency, you will given a grade of I (‘incomplete’) and you may be given the privilege of taking the final exam at the end of the following term AEB3103 is offered (Spring 2013). University athletes are allowed make-up exams missed due to official university sporting events pending ample WRITTEN notification in advance (at least 7 days prior to a scheduled exam).

Exam day policy: It is expected that all students be on time to exams. Please arrive early, if possible, to get seated and get your books/bags stowed away so that the exam can be started on the stated time. Leaving the classroom during the exam is not allowed, so please make sure you use the restroom, if needed, before the exam begins. **NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CLASSROOM TO BEGIN THE EXAM AFTER THE FIRST STUDENT HAS TURNED IN THEIR FINISHED EXAM.** This policy applies to all exams; including the Final Exam.

Professional Etiquette: In order to provide a productive environment conducive to everyone’s learning, adherence to the following guidelines is expected:

- **CELLULAR PHONES** are to be turned off, as it is very disruptive when these devices ‘go off’ during class. No TXT-ing or any other use of cellular phones is permitted or tolerated in class. So please take a moment to turn off your devices before the class begins. You should discontinue the use of any iPods, cell phones, Blackberries or similar devices once the class period begins.
- Students are expected to be on-time for class. It is disruptive when students arrive late – not to mention disrespectful to myself and your fellow students.
- Leaving class early without prior permission is not tolerated.
- You should avoid talking amongst each other once the lectures begin (this includes conversations about the material and the class itself). Please raise your hand if you have any questions.
- Laptops, iPads, or similar devices are not allowed in class.

If you cannot abide by these simple common-sense rules you will be asked to leave the classroom. I also reserve the right to penalize any student continuously violating these rules by deducting points from your final course grade at my discretion.
Other Important Information

Students are responsible for all deadlines/critical dates and policies set forth by the University of Florida. Deadlines/critical dates are published on the University of Florida Office of the University Registrar’s web-site, http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/. Current academic policies are presented in the University of Florida Undergraduate Catalog, https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/Pages/home.aspx.

**Academic Honesty:** In 1995 the UF student body enacted an honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students. In their words, the **Honor Code Preamble:** In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

*The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.*

On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: "**On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.**" The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior.

**Student Responsibility:** Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court.

**Faculty Responsibility:** Faculty members have a duty to promote honest behavior and to avoid practices and environments that foster cheating in their classes. Teachers should encourage students to bring negative conditions or incidents of dishonesty to their attention. In their own work, teachers should practice the same high standards they expect from their students.

**Administration Responsibility:** As highly visible members of our academic community, administrators should be ever vigilant to promote academic honesty and conduct their lives in an ethically exemplary manner. This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

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Any instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.
**Students Requesting Classroom Accommodation:** The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Please contact this office at 0020 Reid Hall, 392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). Any student requesting accommodation will have to provide documentation from the Disability Resource Center.

**UF Counseling Services:** The life of a college student can sometimes be overwhelming. Resources are available on-campus to help students manage personal issues or gain insight into career and academic goals. Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s various counseling resources. The following resources are available for all UF students:

- For general student affairs, Dean of Students Office, 392-1261 (after hours, call 392-1111)
- For mental health consultations, Counseling & Wellness Center, 392-1575 (24/7 phone access)
- For physical health consultations, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161
- For victims of sexual assault, Office of Victim Services, 392-5648 (after hours, call 392-1111)
- For career guidance, Career Resource Center, 392-1602, [www.crc.ufl.edu](http://www.crc.ufl.edu)

**Software Use:** All faculty, staff, and students of the University of Florida are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

**By enrolling in this course you are agreeing to the terms outlined in this syllabus.**

I wish everyone a rewarding and productive semester 😊

GO GATORS!!!