

Agricultural Finance - ABUS 465
Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. Dave Long

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Office Hours: T/TH 9:00-11:00 am

TH 2:00-4:00 pm – or by appointment

I. Course Objectives

Using practical applications of financial accounting theories, students will:

- A. Discuss the importance of the financial aspects of an agribusiness;
- B. Investigate methodologies useful in analyzing current and future financial operations.

Specifically, students will have the opportunity to:

- a. Use spreadsheet software to investigate financial management concepts by completing lab activities which cover such topics as: financial records and statements, budgeting, tools, the time value of money, analysis of the effects of leverage, risk assessment, etc.;
- b. Utilize capital budgeting procedures to compare capital investment alternatives;
- c. Survey sources of financial capital and analyze their value and impact; and
- d. Utilize the Internet and Library resources for financial research.

II. Performance Evaluation Plan

A. Summary of Course Requirements

Grades will be determined by:

	Approx. % of Final Grade
Lab/Homework Exercises	30%
Mid Term #1	20%
Mid Term #2	20%
Final Exam	25%
Attendance	5%

Grades will be assigned using the following scale:

93% - 100%	A
90% - 92.99%	A-
87% - 89.99%	B+
83% - 86.99%	B
80% - 82.99%	B-
77% - 79.99%	C+
73% - 76.99%	C
70% - 72.99%	C-
65% - 69.99%	D+
60% - 64.99%	D
Below 60%	Failure

The instructor reserves the right to revise percentage allocations for graded items at any time during this semester. Notification of such revisions will be provided to students either verbally or in writing. The instructor also reserves the right to add, remove or alter any of the materials (exams, homework, etc.) in this class depending on circumstances. Any changes will be discussed and presented during class meetings. No material that has been completed and graded will be discarded for overall grading purposes.

B. Letter Grade Conversion Plan

A student's course grade is determined by calculating a weighted course percentage score and comparing the score to the grade brackets that appear in the following schedule.

III. Course Administration

A. Prerequisites: ABUS 101 and ABUS 262, or equivalents

B. Course Organization: This course will use lectures, class discussions, in class exercises, and guest speakers to explore agricultural finance concepts.

C. Late Assignments: It is the policy of the Agribusiness faculty to accept NO late assignments of ANY type.

D. Excused Absence: (i.e.: Jury Duty, previous University commitment, etc.) From a graded item requires a written, notice personally delivered to the instructor well in advance of the scheduled due date. Failure to notify the instructor of an impending absence will result in a score of zero for that item. Notice of an anticipated absence does not guarantee approval by the instructor.

E. Recommended Textbook:

Berry, Peter J., Ellinger, Paul N., Hopkin, John A., and C.B. Baker. Financial Management in Agriculture. (6th Edition) The book for this course is a great resource of information. You are responsible for reading assigned material prior to lecture and will be called upon during class regarding readings. Please use the opportunity you have in the class and lab to ask questions.

F. Equipment: You will need a calculator (preferably a financial calculator).

G. Midterms and Final Exam: There will be 2 midterm exams, approximately at 5-week intervals. These will be non-comprehensive, covering only material since the last exam. The final exam will be comprehensive, covering all class materials. This exam will be administered during finals week. The format for all exams will be approximately the same and will consist primarily of questions requiring a written response to confirm the students' knowledge of the material.

H. Lab Exercises: The lab portion of this course is intended to provide students with an opportunity to apply concepts discussed during lecture. All lab exercises are graded and clearly state point value and due date. Lab attendance is **MANDATORY!**

I. Additional Instruction: Your understanding of this course's material is my primary goal for this class. Please do not hesitate to use my office hours for help with anything related to this course. If I am working with my door open at all times other than office hours, feel free to ask for help! To facilitate my teaching, I ask that you do not come for assistance thirty minutes prior to my scheduled teaching times.

J. Academic Rigor: This class will be conducted in a manner that conforms to the University's policy of academic rigor. The CSUC definition of academic rigor for instructors and students is can be accessed at:

<http://em.csuchico.edu/aap/Undergrad/Arigor.asp>.

K. Other Information: It is recommended that students make and keep a copy (electronic or print) of all assignments submitted to the instructor. In addition, students should regularly monitor WebCT for this course because assignments, additional course readings, grades, etc. will be distributed to them via this medium.

NOTE: CSUC considers email an official method of communication.

Students should feel free to discuss their individual performance with the instructor, whether it is their overall course grade or a score they earned on a single graded item.

Professors are human too and occasionally a scoring mistake will occur; if a student has reason to believe a graded item deserves a point value higher than the one earned, bring it to the instructor's attention during scheduled office hours or by specific office appointment. Due to privacy issues I will not entertain discussions about a student's grade immediately before, after, or during class. I am willing to entertain a confidential discussion about any graded item within one week's time after it is returned to the class. If the student's request it to "re grade" their work, I may evaluate the entire graded item and the student's total points may go up or down.

New material will be presented everyday in this class. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the notes or assignments for that day.

IV. Course Management/Policies

Students are expected to read and adhere to all course policies found the College of Agriculture Common Course Policies found at:

<http://www.csuchicoag.org/CoursePolicies>

- A. Academic Honesty:** Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for the respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards (i.e.: cheating, plagiarism, etc.) must be confronted and must accept the consequences for their actions. The University's policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. It is the student's responsibility to know and understand the CSUC Academic Honesty Policy. The policy is provided in the University Catalog as well as via its web site at <http://www.csuchico.edu/dss/>. Ignorance of university policies or of what constitutes academic dishonesty is not an acceptable excuse in this matter. If there is evidence that the student has been involved in any form of academic dishonesty, they will receive an "F" in the class, be locked out of WebCT, and a report will be provided to Student Judicial Affairs for further action.
- B. Disabilities:** If a student has a disability that requires special accommodations, the student must contact a counselor at Disability Support Services (www.csuchico.edu/dss/). In addition, the student should let me know as soon as possible so I can be aware of the situation and so I can provide any necessary accommodations.
- C. Expected Student Behavior in the Classroom:**
- a. All students have the right and privilege to learn in this class, free from harassment and disruption, inappropriate or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, nor will lewd or foul language.
 - b. All class participants are expected to exhibit respectful behavior to other students and me. Students may not read other material during class nor should they carry on personal discussions with their peers (personal, texting or email) during lectures, presentations, etc. Failure to exhibit such behavior will result in the student being penalized 10 points for every occurrence.
 - c. Students are required to turn off all pagers, cell phones and other electronic devices during class time.
 - d. Keep food or drinks to a minimum during class time.
 - e. The course follows the standards code in the Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities (EM 96.38) and students are subject to disciplinary action for violation of that code.