

AEB2014: Economic Issues Food and You (Spring 2026)

Class Meetings: M, W, F | Period 10 (5:10 PM-6:00 PM) | MCCB 1108 | Section 27262

Instructor: Chenxi Hu

E-mail: chenxi.hu@ufl.edu (Please begin the subject line with “AEB2014”)

Office Location: 2120 McCarty Hall B

Office Hours and Location: Location TBD and Via Zoom

You are welcome to meet me in my office or over Zoom during my office hours. The office hours Zoom link is <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5632611627>. If you have a time conflict with the office hours, you are welcome to schedule an appointment with me using Canvas mail or email.

Course Description (from Catalog):

This course emphasizes the role of agriculture and economics. The hows and whys of their influence on food prices and the world food situation, the environment, natural resources and government policy; and economic issues, including inflation and money.

Prerequisites: None

Teaching Assistant: N/A

Undergraduate Advisor: Ms. Michelle Baldwin; 1170B McCarty Hall A; (352) 294-7640;
E-mail: baldwin.ma@ufl.edu; [Schedule an appointment](#)

Undergraduate Coordinator: Dr. Misti Sharp; 1189 McCarty Hall A; (352)294-7632;
E-mail: mistisharp@ufl.edu; [Schedule and appointment](#)

FRE Technology Assistance: Dave Depatie; 1197 McCarty Hall A; (352) 394-7641;
E-mail: ddepatie@ufl.edu

Expected Student Learning Outcomes:

The primary goal of this course is to explore economic concepts that will enable critical analysis of food-related choices from the context of individual consumers and as global citizens. At the conclusion of this course, the successful student will be able to:

- Use analytical models to generalize economic decision-making associated with food supply and demand, productivity gains from investment and technological advances, market failures associated with pollution and common resources, the situation of income inequality and unemployment, as well as the basic tools of fiscal, monetary, and agricultural policy analysis influencing society's well-being.
- Apply positive and normative economic analysis to examine how different sectors of the U.S. economy are interconnected, and to analyze current local and global economic issues surrounding food, resources, and policy design.

Required Course Materials

There is no specific textbook required for this course. Readings are based on open-source textbook materials available online and additional readings for each lesson are supplemented in Canvas.

Readings and materials are designed to be accessible for all students and include the following sources as well as other sources linked in Canvas:

[Principles of Economics](#) by [OpenStax](#) licensed under [CC Attribution License v4.0](#)

[Principles of Macroeconomics](#) by [OpenStax](#) licensed under [CC Attribution License v4.0](#)

Please reach out to the instructor for additional support if you have any questions, foresee any difficulty, or would like to discuss specific concerns.

Course Outline

- Module 1: Introduction to Economics

Students will be able to define foundational economic concepts such as scarcity, opportunity cost, markets, and trade-offs. They will understand the role of agriculture and food systems in economics and apply demand and supply theory to real-world examples.

- Module 2: Consumer Behavior

Students will understand how individuals make consumption decisions. They will be able to explain marginal utility, consumer surplus, and different types of price elasticities, and apply these concepts to analyze consumer choices in agricultural and food markets.

- Module 3: Production, Firm, and Market Structure

Students will examine how firms make production decisions in both the short run and long run. They will analyze cost structures, market competition, and different market structures, including perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, and oligopoly.

- Module 4: Public Goods and Externalities

Students will understand market failures and evaluate the role of government intervention. They will be able to explain externalities, public goods, and common resources, and analyze related agricultural and environmental issues using economic frameworks.

- Module 5: Macroeconomics

Students will explore key macroeconomic indicators, such as GDP, inflation, interest rates, and unemployment, and analyze how these factors influence food prices, agricultural production, and consumer purchasing power.

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- **Module 6: International Trade and Agricultural Policies**

Students will examine international trade theories and agricultural policy tools. They will explore how trade, environmental regulations, and food policies affect markets, producers, and consumers at both national and global levels.

Course Grading Structure

Assignments:

Students will complete one assignment at the end of each module. Each assignment follows a two-deadline system. The first deadline is due in one week after the lesson (for students who need strict deadlines). The second deadline is due on the exam day (I will manually change the due dates after the first deadline). Students may choose whichever deadline best supports their time management, as effective planning is essential for success in this course. Late submissions are allowed, but a 20% deduction per late day will be applied.

It is strongly advised not to postpone assignments until just before the exam, as the material may be too extensive to absorb in a short time. Students should space out their study sessions, review mistakes carefully, and seek to understand each concept before moving on.

Practice Quiz:

Practice quizzes will be conducted in person. After each module, there will first be a review session followed by a practice quiz. The review, quiz, and assignment questions will be similar and will cover most of the content needed for the exam. The quiz functions as both a review tool and an attendance check; students will see which answers were correct or incorrect but will receive full credit as long as they attend and submit the quiz. This structure is designed to help students actively review the material and assess their understanding of the module content.

Article Application Essay:

Students will complete one short essay that connects a current news article, report, or credible source to an economic concept discussed in class. The goal is to apply economic reasoning to real-world issues in food, agriculture, markets, or policy. Students may choose any relevant article but must ensure it relates to one specific topic covered in the course (e.g., elasticity, market structure, externalities, monetary policy, international trade).

The essay should be 1-2 pages in length (approximately 500-700 words) and should include a concise summary of the article, highlighting the key issue, facts, or findings. Students then clearly connect the article to a specific economic concept covered in the course and explain how the chosen topic applies to real-world economic behavior. Finally, a brief analysis or reflection should be included to discuss why this issue is important for consumers, producers, or policymakers. Students may use news articles, government reports, industry publications, or

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academic summaries; however, all sources must be cited appropriately using a standard citation style (e.g., APA format).

Exams:

There are six modules in total, and one exam after every two modules. There will be 3 required non-cumulative exams. All exams will be in person and closed-book. Exam questions will be drawn from the textbook, assignments, reviews, and practice quizzes.

BEWARE! ‘Getting the right answer’ is not the same as understanding the concept. You must understand the concept, not simply get the answer right. You will be asked questions on the exams on the same material, but they will not be the same questions – they will be asked differently, worded differently – and you must understand the concept to be sure of doing well on the exams.

Final Exam (Optional):

An optional comprehensive final exam will be given on April 29, from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. Students wishing to replace an exam grade from the semester may take the final exam. Students who miss an exam for any reason (excused or unexcused) may take the final to replace the missing grade. However, any student found cheating on an exam will receive a 0 for that exam and may not use the final exam to replace the grade.

Assignment Type	Point Value	Percent of Final Grade
Assignments (6)	300	30%
Practice Quiz (6)	120	12%
Attendance, Activities	80	8%
Article Application Essay (1)	50	5%
Exams (3)	450	45%
Final Exam (Optional)	(150)	(15%)
Total	1000	100%

Grading scale

For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Grade	Percentage
A	93% - 100 %
A-	90% - 92.9%
B+	86% - 89.9%
B	83% - 85.9%

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B-	80% - 82.9%
C+	76% - 79.9%
C	73% - 75.9%
C-	70% - 72.9%
D+	66% - 69.9%
D	63% - 65.9%
D-	60% - 62.9%
E	59.9% or less

Course Schedule

This course is divided into six modules: Introduction to Economics, Consumer Behavior, Production and Markets, Public Goods and Externalities, Macroeconomics, and International Trade and Agricultural Policies.

The structure below will be adjusted as needed and the updated syllabus will be posted to the course website or by Canvas announcement.

Week	Chapter	Content	Deadlines
Week 1-2	1, 2, 3	Introduction to Economics Chapter 1: Economics of Resources, Agriculture, and Food Chapter 2: Theory of Markets Chapter 3: Demand and Supply Review 1 Practice Quiz 1 Assignment 1	Week 4 (Wed, Feb. 5)
Week 3-6	4, 5, 6	Consumer Behavior Chapter 4: Marginal Utility Chapter 5: Consumer Surplus Chapter 6: Elasticity Review 2 Practice Quiz 2 Assignment 2 Exam 1	Week 6 (Mon, Feb. 16)
Week 6-8	7,8,9,10	Production & Markets Chapter 7: The Cost of Production Chapter 8: Production & Costs: Short Run vs. Long Run Chapter 9: Perfect Competition & Monopoly Chapter 10: Monopolistic Competition & Oligopoly Review 3 Practice Quiz 3 Assignment 3	Week 9 (Wed, Mar. 12)

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Week 8-11	11, 12	Public Goods and Externalities Chapter 11: Externalities Chapter 12: Public Goods & Common Resources Review 4 Practice Quiz 4 Assignment 4 Exam 2	Week 11 (Thu, Mar. 25)
Week 11-13	13,14,15	Macroeconomics Chapter 13: GDP & Economic Growth Chapter 14: Monetary Policy Chapter 15: Unemployment & Inflation Review 5 Practice Quiz 5 Assignment 5	Week 13 (Mon, Apr. 6)
Week 13-15	16, 17, 18	International Trade and Agricultural Policies Chapter 16: International Trade Chapter 17: Environmental & Resource Policies Chapter 18: Food Policies Review 6 Practice Quiz 6 Assignment 6 Exam 3	Week 16 (Wed, Apr. 22)

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, including due dates and exam dates, as appropriate. These changes will be announced as early as possible so students can adjust their schedules.

Required Policies

Attendance and Make-Up Work: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

In general, you are expected to be in class each day and submit all work on time on e-Learning.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at

<https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students are notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are: (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without the permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University 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. We, the members of the

University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road,
- Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- [Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).
- On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

Students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the University's counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal or lacking clear career and academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

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If something happens in your personal life that has an impact on your academic life, you must go through the Dean of Students Office (contact below) for additional accommodations. If you are experiencing other forms of distress that do not impact your performance in my class, there are several resources available on campus for students (<http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>)