

AEB4334: Agricultural Price Analysis – Spring 2025

Course Time and Location:

- Semester: Spring 2025
- Time and Location: M, W, F | Period 6 (12:50 pm -1:40 pm), Larsen Hall (LAR) 310

Instructor information:

- Instructor: Dr. Xumin Zhang, Lecturer (Food and Resource Economics)
- Office: Food and Resource Economics, 1177 McCarty Hall A
- Contact: (352) 294-7623; xumzxm@ufl.edu;

Office Hours and Location:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 2-4 pm or by appointment (Zoom conference by appointment: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3310373641>).

Teaching Assistant: TBD, Office Hours, Friday, 2-3 pm, MCCA 1177.

Course Description (from Catalog):

Quantitative measurement of factors affecting agricultural and resource prices; seasonal and cyclical fluctuations; index measures of price and quantity variables; theory and application of consumer behavior principles.

Prerequisites: AEB3103 and AEB3550, or the equivalent. AEB4334 will be taught with the assumption that students are comfortable with the material covered in these courses. In addition, students are expected to have a working knowledge of basic economics, algebra, and calculus.

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E-mail: ddepatic@ufl.edu

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

After the successful completion of AEB4334, a typical student should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the economic theory of consumer behavior, the elasticity of demand, production decisions, and profit maximization for firms under different market structures.
- Apply economics analysis as a tool to evaluate agricultural prices and develop profit maximization decisions for firms.

Course Summary/Topics:

- Part 1: Introduction and Marginal Analysis for Optimal Decisions

Students will be able to explain managerial economics, economic profit and use marginal / demand and supply analysis to make optimized business decisions.

Chapter 1: Managers, Profit, Markets

Chapter 3: Marginal Analysis for Optimal Decisions

Chapter 4: Basic Estimation Techniques

- Part 2: Markets and The Theory of Consumer Behavior

Students will be able to explain market demand, supply, and price elasticity and use individual demand curves to derive market demand.

Chapter 2: Demand, Supply, and Market Equilibrium

Chapter 6: Elasticity and Demand

Chapter 5: Theory of Consumer Behavior

- Part 3: Production Theory and Empirics

Students will be able to explain the concepts of production and cost analysis and use cost functions to analyze cost structure.

Chapter 8: Production and Cost in the Short Run

Chapter 9: Production and Cost in the Long Run

Chapter 10: Production and Cost Estimation

- Part 4: Firm Behavior and Market Structure

Students will be able to explain the different market structures and define the profit-maximizing output and price for firms.

Chapter 11: Managerial Decisions in Competitive Markets

Chapter 12: Managerial Decisions for Firms with Market Power

Chapter 13: Strategic Decision-Making in Oligopoly Markets.

Chapter 14: Pricing Strategy - Price Discrimination

Required Course Materials:

- **Textbook:** Managerial Economics: Foundations of Business Analysis and Strategy, 14th edition, by Christopher Thomas and S. Charles Maurice. McGraw Hill. 2024. ISBN: 9781266257797.
 - It is a McGraw-Hill eBook.
 - A paperback (ISBN: 9781266257797) or loose-leaf version of the textbook (ISBN: 9781264934058) is also acceptable.
- **E-learning:** There is an [E-Learning Canvas webpage](#) for this course. E-learning can be accessed via <http://elearning.ufl.edu> using your Gatorlink username and password. If you are having difficulties accessing E-learning, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by calling (352)-392-HELP or via email helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Class Structure: Primarily Classroom (face to face)

Composition of Final Score:

Course Assignments	Total Points	% of Total
Assignments (Quizzes, Problem Sets, Reflections, etc.) - Attendance and In-class activities (50 points)	200 points	33.4%
Agricultural Price Analysis (APA) Project	100 points	16.6%
Exams (3)	300 points	50%
Final Exam (Optional)	(100 points)	(16.6%)
Total	600 points	100%

Assignment due dates are provided in Canvas > Syllabus (or Assignments). Late submissions are acceptable, but will incur a 50% penalty deduction.

Course Assignments and Expectations:

Canvas Assignments (200 points):

There will be quizzes for each chapter (e.g., multiple-choice, short-answer questions, etc.).

There will be individual reflections, discussions, or learning activities for each module.

There will be one Problem Set for each module, a total of 4 problem sets (multiple questions).

I apply a double-deadline approach to assignments (quizzes and learning activities only, not bonus points and price analysis projects). The first deadline is one week after the lesson (for students who need strict deadlines). The second deadline is the Monday before the exam day (Exams are usually scheduled for Friday). Students choose the deadlines that work better for effectively managing time (time management is the key to success).

Attendance and In-Class Activities (50 points): Attendance and In-Class Activities are essential components of this class. Regular attendance fosters a dynamic learning environment where you

can engage with peers, ask questions, and grasp complex concepts more effectively. In-class activity is a method to assess your understanding of course material. There will be random attendance taking and self-assessment quizzes, ranging from 2.5 to 5 points throughout the semester.

Exams (300 points): There will be 3 required non-cumulative exams. The exams will include multiple choice, short answers, and calculations. The exams will be administered in class, each a 50-minute test.

Final Exam (Optional):

An optional comprehensive final exam will be given on Apr.30th, at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (in the classroom for this semester). 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. Any student caught cheating on any exam will receive a 0 on the exam and may not use the final to replace that grade (I retain the option of failing any student caught cheating on any exam – the minimum penalty for cheating is a 0 without the option to replace the grade).

Agricultural Price Analysis (APA) Project (100 points)

- APA #1 Team Organization (individual) 5 points
- APA #2 Commodity Selection 10 points
- APA #3 Fundamental Analysis 10 Points
- APA #4 Simulator sign-up and trading practice 5 points
- APA #5 Price Monitoring and Technical Analysis 10 points
- APA #6-#7 Trading simulation (individual) 30 points
- APA #8 Final Project Report (individual) 15 points
- APA #9 Team Member Evaluation 15 points
- Total points available: 100 points

There will be a set of assignments for the APA project. It includes commodity selection, technical price tracking, price analysis, fundamental analysis, technical analysis, trading simulation, and project reports. Rules and instructions will be available on Canvas.

Students will be divided into teams of 2 students. Rules and assignments will be available on Canvas.

Extra credits: Extra points will be available.

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Weekly Schedule:

Week	Chapter	Topic	Assignments Due
1		Orientation: Get Started (1 st day of class)	Jan.13th
Module 1 (Marginal Analysis for Optimal Decisions)			
1	1	Managers, Profits, and Markets	
2		APA #1 Project Kickoff (team organizing)	APA Kickoff (W2)
3	3	Marginal Analysis for Optimal Decisions APA #2 Commodity Selection assigned	APA Team Organization due (W3, Jan.31st)
4	4	Basic Estimation Techniques and Forecasting	APA Commodity Selection due (W5, Feb.7th)
Module 2 (Markets and The Theory of Consumer Behavior)			
5	2	Demand, Supply, and Market Equilibrium APA #3 Fundamental Analysis	Problem Set 1 due (W5, Feb.11th) No Exam for Module 1
6	6	Elasticity and Demand	APA #3 due (W6, Feb.21st)
7	5	Theory of Consumer Behavior APA #4 Simulator sign-up and practice	
Module 3 (Production Theory and Empirics)			
8	8	Production and Cost in the Short Run	Problem Set 2 due (W9, Mar.3rd) Exam 1 (Fri, Mar.7th) APA #4 due (W8, Mar.7th)
9	9	Production and Cost in the Long Run APA #5 Price Technical Analysis assigned	
10		Spring Break	
Module 4 (Firm Behavior and Market Structure)			
11	11	Managerial Decisions in Competitive Markets	APA #5 due (W11, Mar.28th)
12	12	Managerial Decisions for Firms with Market Power - Monopoly APA #6-#7 Trading simulation assigned	Problem Set 3 due (W12, Apr.1st) Exam 2 (Fri, Apr.4th)
13	12	Managerial Decisions for Firms with Market Power – Monopolistic	APA #6 and #7 trading simulation due (W13, Apr.11th)
14	13	Strategic Decision Making in Oligopoly Markets APA #8 Final Report and Poster assigned	
15	14	Pricing Strategy - Price Discrimination Course wrap up APA #7 Final Report and Poster due	Problem Set 4 due (W15, Apr.21st)

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			APA Final Report due (W15, Apr.23rd) Exam 3 (Wed, Apr.23rd)
16		Final Exam (optional) Apr.30th. at 10:00–12:00 pm	LAR 310

Note: The instructor reserves the right to change the terms and dates stated in this course syllabus at any time. Any changes will be communicated on e-learning as an announcement. It is solely the student’s responsibility to stay informed of any changes.

Please note that there are holidays.

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

Student Evaluation: the grade scale is at the discretion of the professor. UF does not have an A+ option. You must provide percentage, total points, and grade points in a table such as this:

Grade	Percentage	Points	Grade Points
A	93% or more	558 or more	4.00
A-	90.0 – 92.9%	540-558	3.67
B+	86.0 – 89.9%	516-540	3.33
B	83.0 – 85.9%	498-516	3.00
B-	80.0 – 82.9%	480-498	2.67
C+	76.0 – 79.9%	456-480	2.33
C	73.0 – 75.9%	438-456	2.00
C-	70.0 – 72.9%	420-438	1.67
D+	66.0 – 69.9%	396-420	1.33
D	63.0 – 65.9%	378-396	1.00
D-	60.0 – 62.9%	360-378	0.67
E	59.9% or less	360 or less	0.00

****Please note that grades are not ‘rounded’ or ‘adjusted’ at the end of the term.****

Grades and Grade Points: For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-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/>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities such as:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the “[Get Started With the DRC](#)” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. 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.

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 education 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 deliver by an 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 presentation such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private 3 Revised: September 2024 conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without 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.

For online course with recorded materials a statement informing students of privacy related issues such as:

Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Online Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. 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 will be 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.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Honesty: As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following 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."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit 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. See the [UF Conduct Code website for more information](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the

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University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: (New Link: <https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>)

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.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

Whole Gator App

The Whole Gator and website and app connects UF students with resources dedicated to supporting overall health and well-being. In addition to many of the resources below it also has strategies to practice self-care. <https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/topics>

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](#).
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.
- *Student Success Initiative*, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>.

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.

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- ***Library Support:*** Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- ***Teaching Center:*** 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- ***Writing Studio:*** Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.](#)
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.](#)

Student Complaints:

- Residential Course: <https://www.ombuds.ufl.edu/complaint-portal/>
- Online Course: <https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>

Lauren's Promise: I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you.

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year old honors student athlete, was murdered on October 22, 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah Campus. We must all take actions to ensure this never happens again. Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated at the University of Florida.

If you are experiencing sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, you can take the following actions:

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911.
- Report it to me, and I will connect you to resources.
- Seek confidential sources of support and help:
 - [UFPD Office of Victim Services](#): 51 Museum Road, 352-392-5648
 - [Sexual Assault Recovery Services \(SARS\)](#): Infirmary Building, 352-392-1161
 - Alachua County Rape Crisis Center (confidential): 352-264-6760