

AEB6183 – Agribusiness Risk Management Course Syllabus

Class Periods: Tuesday (3:00PM – 4:55PM) & Thursday (4:05pm – 4:55PM)

Location: MCCA 2186

Section: 2F51

Academic Term: Fall 2019

Instructor Information

- Dr. John Lai (*Instructor*)
- Preferred Method of Contact: johnlai@ufl.edu
- Phone: 352-294-7669

Office Hours

- Location: MCCB 1109
- Tuesday – Thursday (9:00AM – 11:00AM)
- Other times available by appointment.

Course Description

Examine and develop the applied risk analysis skills useful for risk management decision-making by agricultural producers, agribusinesses, and researchers.

Course Objectives

1. Develop an understanding in the methodology of making decisions.
2. Develop an understanding in risk management and the analysis of risk management tools.
3. Locate and use data and information from various sources to use in risk analysis and management.
4. Understand and apply basic computer and mathematical decision-making aids to firm level problems and decisions.

Required Textbooks and Software

This course will use the book, *Business risk and simulation modelling in practice: using Excel, VBA, and @Risk* (ISBN: 1-118-90405-2, 1-118-90402-8, 1-118-90403-6, 1-118-90404-4). Additional course content may also be provided to students via online learning management system. Students are expected to be proficient in the use of the Microsoft Office suite (including by not limited to: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook). Computer lab sessions will build upon existing knowledge of Excel and learn to use Palisade @Risk tools to achieve course objectives.

Recommended Materials

The use of a laptop may aid in note taking during class sessions. Demonstrations of software, including Microsoft Excel and @Risk, will take place throughout the semester and students are encouraged to follow along.

Students may, optionally and at their own cost, purchase an individual student license of Palisade's DecisionTool Suite in order to have their own personal license in addition to the license already provided through the course lab. To purchase the additional license, students may visit <https://www.palisade.com/academic/> for more information. A time-limited free trial is typically available with no risk or obligation to purchase and no limits on model size or features.

Student Computing Requirements

Access to and on-going use of a computer is required for all students. Competency in the basic use of a computer is required. Course work will require use of a computer and a broadband connection to the internet, academic advising and registration can be done by computer, official university correspondence is often sent via e-mail and other services are provided that require access through the Internet.

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.

Exam Policy

Students are expected to arrive on time for each exam. Exams will be scheduled one week in advance to allow students to make any necessary scheduling arrangements and will take place in the regularly scheduled classroom, unless otherwise communicated in written course announcements. The final exam is scheduled below.

Final	12/10	Cumulative Final Exam: 12/10/2019 @ 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM
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Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Assignment Policy

Attendance is required and will be monitored by recording on-time attendance to each class session or through quizzes. Students are expected to take notes during class sessions. Any handouts provided during class sessions are the responsibility of the student to maintain. *Absence* is defined as: failure to be present in class, failure to arrive to class on-time (tardy), or leaving class prior to dismissal by *Instructor*. Penalty for each *absence* will result in a 1% deduction from final semester grade. *Excessive absences* are defined as: having ten or more recorded occasions of an *absence*. *Excessive absences* will result in a failing grade being assigned automatically as well as all course grade records being recorded as a zero. Students with *excessive absence* will be prohibited from further attendance of the course.

Student use of electronic devices (including but not limited to: cell phones, smart phones, smart devices) are not permitted. A *disturbance* in class is defined as: any interruption of class activities, any distraction to students, or any sounding of ringtones or vibrations. Any electronic device that causes a disturbance during class sessions will result in a 1% deduction from final semester grade. Laptop use is only permitted to aid in notetaking during lecture sessions or following along during demonstration sessions. Using a laptop that causes a *disturbance* will result in a 1% deduction from final semester grade.

Late work is not accepted and will result in a zero. Missed class assignments, missed quizzes, and missed exams will result in a zero. An *absence* on the day of a scheduled exam will result in a zero being assigned for the exam. All work assigned for course credit will be assigned a minimum of two business days in advance prior to the corresponding submission deadline. Students are responsible for any technical difficulties or technological issues preventing successful on-time submission of classwork. Contact information for the E-Learning Technical Support is provided under the Campus Resources section.

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/>) and require appropriate documentation submitted in a timely fashion (within two business days) to the *Instructor*. In the event of an excused absence, any class activities (including graded items) are the sole responsibility of the student. Make-up work for assignments, quizzes, exams, and labs must be completed in a timely manner determined by and at discretion of the *Instructor*. Late work is not accepted beyond the pre-determined deadline for make-up work mutually agreed upon between *Instructor* and the student with an excused absence. Students with institutional absences must contact *Instructor* prior to an *absence* to arrange for assignments that will be missed to avoid penalty.

Grading errors must be brought to the attention of the *Instructor* within five business days of the grade item being posted by sending an email that includes a scan or photograph of the grading error in question and a written explanation of the error(s) found. After five business days, the opportunity for grade corrections is forfeited. Verbal communication does not constitute official notification of grading error.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and respect all individuals in the classroom. Offensive language or other inappropriate behavior that causes a deterioration in the quality of the learning environment, as determined by the *Instructor*, shall result in the offending student(s) to be immediately ejected from the classroom prior to class dismissal and will constitute an *Absence*. If seating is assigned to any student in the class for any reason, the student must sit in the assigned seat for the class. Penalty for not sitting in the assigned seat, as instructed by the *Instructor*, will constitute an *Absence*. The use of any alcohol or tobacco products is prohibited. The penalty for using any alcohol or tobacco substances will constitute an *Absence*.

Note: The course *Instructor* reserves the right to document class attendance, seating selections, and behavior in class at any time via the use of photography, audio recording, and/or video recording. For example: the course *Instructor* reserves the right to record video of the classroom during exams and refer to that video recording to verify behaviors or actions during exams at any time period relevant to the course, including after the semester has been completed.

Course Communications

Expect response time for all forms of communication to be up to 2 business days (often sooner) and during regular University of Florida business hours. In the event your message does not receive a reply in this timeframe, please try again. Email is the preferred method of contact and is most likely to receive the most rapid response. Do not use online learning management system to contact the *Instructor*. In addition, the *Instructor* from time to time may be on Official Leave and students may experience delayed responses as a result. Under the latter circumstance, please check the online learning management system or student emails for course announcements or other notifications. All communications should follow common professional etiquette to receive a response. It is inappropriate to expect any response to questions afterhours or less than 2 business days before critical deadlines in the course. Discussion of grades or other course performance will only be conducted in person during office hours.

Optional Extra Credit

The *Instructor* reserves the right to offer extra credit during the semester as a reward for high scholastic achievement and to further challenge students academically. The content of the extra credit assignment may require knowledge extending beyond what is taught in the course. The *Instructor* reserves the right to offer extra credit only in class, only via online learning management system, or a combination of online and in-class. It is the student's responsibility to attend class and check the online learning management system on a regular basis. Any extra credit opportunity may be limited to individuals meeting certain specifications (determined at the full discretion of the *Instructor*). All extra credit opportunities are entirely optional and do not count against the final semester grade; there is no penalty associated with any extra credit opportunities. All deadlines associated with extra credit opportunities are firm and late extra credit submissions will not be accepted.

Evaluation of Grades

All work submitted for credit is graded on a percentage basis. All grade components are aggregated into categories and an average percentage score is calculated for each grade item. Grade items contribute to a specified percentage of a final grade for the semester. Percentage contribution for each grade item is specified in the table below.

Grade Items	Percentage of Final Grade
1. Assignments/Labs/Quizzes	25%
2. Exam 1	25%
3. Exam 2	25%
4. Cumulative Final Exam	25%
Final Semester Grade Total	100%

Grading Policy

Final semester grade percentages calculated to be within a percentage range will be assigned a corresponding letter grade and the associated grade points. Applicable ranges for this course and corresponding letter grades are specified in the table below.

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
90.0 – 100	A	4.00
87.0 – 89.9	A-	3.67
84.0 – 86.9	B+	3.33
81.0 – 83.9	B	3.00
78.0 – 80.9	B-	2.67
75.0 – 79.9	C+	2.33
72.0 – 74.9	C	2.00
69.0 – 71.9	C-	1.67
66.0 – 68.9	D+	1.33
63.0 – 65.9	D	1.00
60.0 – 62.9	D-	0.67
00.0 – 59.9	E	0.00

Services for Students with Disabilities

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. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Additional information is available at <https://disability.ufl.edu/>.

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 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/>.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

University Honesty Policy

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."

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 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: <https://dso.ufl.edu/>.

Note: There is zero tolerance for violations to the University Honesty Policy. Any student(s) found to violate the University Honesty Policy, Student Honor Code, or Student Conduct Code for any course activity (including but not limited to: any work submitted for credit) shall receive a grade percentage of zero for the submitted work involved in the violation, require assigned seating, and be reported to administrative personnel at UF. Second or multiple offenses (including offenses on recorded for other courses) shall result in a final course grade percentage of zero percent being assigned and all work submitted for credit in the course assigned a zero.

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: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

- University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.
- Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.
- Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.
- Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.
- On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.