

AEB 2014 Economic Issues, Food, and You

Fall 2018 Syllabus

Instructor: Ms. Jennifer Clark
Office location: 1191 McCarty Hall A
Office telephone: (352) 294-7636
Email: tspartin@ufl.edu (*MUST include "AEB 2014" in subject line*)
Office Hours TU & W: 9-10 am; TH: 2-3 pm (ZOOM online conference; refer to Canvas > Syllabus tab)

**Office hours also by appointment; send email to tspartin@ufl.edu (MUST include AEB 2014 Appointment in subject line)*

*** TA office hours will be sent via Canvas > Announcements after drop/add period ends*

DO NOT USE CANVAS EMAIL – CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR USING @UFL EMAIL

Online Course Description

Credits: 3. Prerequisites: none. The role of agriculture and economics: the how's and why's 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.

Course Goals

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 principles of positive and normative policy analysis to assess how parts of the U.S. economy are inter-related and further develop an ability to analyze current economic issues and problems related to food that are both local and global in context.

Required Text

None; all readings are available on Canvas in pdf format. Students are responsible for downloading the most current (free) version of Adobe Acrobat Reader to access course readings:

- Adobe Reader [for PC &](#)
- Adobe Reader [for Mac](#)

Homework "MyEconLab" (Required)

AEB 2014 participates in the UF All Access program & all students gain access to the required MyEconLab homework materials ONCE CLASSES BEGIN. Students will have will have two options to 1) "Opt-In" to MyEconLab access through a link provided in Canvas for a reduced price and pay for these materials through their student account, or 2) purchase a standalone code through the UF Bookstore. Both options provide access to the same online materials; however, the discounted price with UF All Access is only be available through the Gator1 Central portal. You can log in to view your UF All Access participating courses when classes begin here: [Gator1 Central portal](#)

Additional (supplementary) Texts

All required readings are provided in the course, but any basic economic textbook (new or used) can serve as a supplement, if student elects to purchase OR open-source (free) textbooks are available online such as this one from University of Minnesota's, Open Textbook Library, "[Economics – Theory Through Applications](#)".

Course Outline

Module 0: "Getting started" (Required reading -> Syllabus Quiz opens Module 1)

Module 1: "Understanding what economics is and what economists do" (Lessons 1-4)

- LESSON 1: Resources & scarcity
- LESSON 2: Issues related to resources and food
- LESSON 3: Model building
- LESSON 4: Mathematics review for economics

Module 2: "The fundamental theory of markets and how they operate" (Lessons 5-8)

- LESSON 5: Demand and consumer decision-making
- LESSON 6: Supply and producer decision-making
- LESSON 7: Markets, equilibrium, disequilibrium & simultaneous shifts
- LESSON 8: Elasticity

Module 3: "Using economic models to analyze resource allocations" (Lessons 9-12)

- LESSON 9: Welfare economics
- LESSON 10: Externalities and our environment
- LESSON 11: Productivity & economic growth
- LESSON 12: Economic development

Module 4: "Applying economic analysis to food issues" (Lessons 13-16)

- LESSON 13: Farms, agribusiness & the food supply chain
- LESSON 14: International trade
- LESSON 15: GDP and the circular flow of money
- LESSON 16: Inflation

Module 5: "Show me the money" (Lessons 17-20)

- LESSON 17: Money and banking
- LESSON 18: Managing time value of money (Basics of finance)
- LESSON 19: Fiscal policy
- LESSON 20: Monetary policy

Module 6: "Income and agricultural policies" (Lessons 21-24)

- LESSON 21: Income
- LESSON 22: Unemployment policy
- LESSON 23: Credit and liquidity
- LESSON 24: Agricultural policy

Module 7: "Conclusion & end-of-semester feedback"

***Refer to the class website for specific reading assignments for each Module. Any changes will be communicated via Canvas > Announcements.**

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number

Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) for any technical assistance/questions. Any technical problems require the student to obtain a UF Computing Help Desk ticket number, to be included in an email, sent to the instructor's UFL email address AT LEAST ONE HOUR prior to assignment due date for possible further discussion. Do not wait until the last minute to upload assignments in an online course. Refer to Canvas > Module 0 "Getting Started" for details.

Due Dates

The due dates for all assignments and assessments are provided in Canvas > Syllabus tab (webpage can be printed) or dates can be programmed into your calendar or a mobile device. All assignments are due at 5:00 pm Eastern Standard time. It is strongly recommended that you plan to submit graded work at least one day earlier than the due date so that there is sufficient time to verify your "Submission Turned In!" in Canvas, as well as to avoid technical issues.

In the case of other scheduled work requirements, extra-curricular activities, or other non-academic obligations, students should plan (in a schedule planner or Smartphone) to submit graded assignments earlier than one day in advance. Waiting until the last minute (i.e., within the last hour before an assignment is due) should be avoided and is NOT an acceptable technical excuse.

All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number. Refer to Canvas > Module 0 "Getting Started" for details.

The instructor reserves the right to make minor adjustments to the deadlines, if necessary. Note that graded assignments will be available for at least one week before the assignment due date. Therefore, due dates and grading policies (e.g. "My Choices Grading", "Missed Assignment") will be enforced.

"My Choices Grading" Policy

Assignment due dates are provided in Canvas > Syllabus (left-side navigation tab). Late submissions will incur a **20% per day penalty deduction** (from total Assignment Points Possible) for each 24-hour period an assignment is submitted beyond the due date, unless Extenuating Circumstances apply. *"My Choices Grading" policy applies to Module 6 assignments in fall & spring semester; however, "My Choices Grading" does not apply to Module 6 assignments in summer B due to the compressed timing of this semester.* Refer to Canvas > Module 0 > "Getting Started" for additional details. An examples of the grading rubric is provided in Module 0 > Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's).

"Missed Assignment" Policy (Applies to Modules 1-5; does not apply to Module 6)

A total of six (6) graded Modules are to be completed in AEB 2014. Each Module (1-6) includes a graded Discussion, Homework, Activity, and Quiz (i.e., "Category"). For Modules 1-5, for each assignment "Category" (e.g., Discussion, Homework, Activity, and Quiz), the lowest score will be dropped in the final grade calculation. This dropped lowest score for each category (for Modules 1-5) will serve as missed assignment consideration UNLESS the Extenuating Circumstances exception applies to your specific circumstances.

Note that Module 6 is a cumulative module and ALL Module 6 Category assignments must be submitted for all students (i.e., the "Missed Assignment" policy does NOT apply to Module 6 assignments. Refer to the Grading Rubric on the next page for summary details.

**If you habitually procrastinate, or if this is your first online course, please make an appointment with the instructor early in the semester to discuss online course strategies in order to avoid problematic consequences.*

Extenuating Circumstances Exception

Exceptions to the Missed Assignment Policy reflect excused University events that fall under the 12-day rule or are of a very serious nature. These exceptions are referred to as "Extenuating Circumstances" and require formal, letter-head documentation from a physician, hospital, UF faculty/academic advisor, or an email from the [UF Dean of Students](#) Office

sent to the instructor’s UF email address, **within 24 hours of assignment deadline**. A health-clinic note on the day an assignment is due does not warrant extenuating circumstances and the “Missed Assignment” Policy (above) will apply.

Student Responsibility for Online Submissions

Students are responsible for ensuring and verifying that all of their assignment files are uploaded successfully into Canvas. The instructor cannot be responsible for internet connections or failures.

Students are strongly advised against using wireless connections to complete quizzes or upload assignments.

Wireless connections have been problematic in previous semesters with students losing all points due to upload failure. A hard-wired connection can be located at any UF computer lab on campus or any public library to submit graded assignments. TO REPEAT, wireless connections are problematic and quizzes or assignment uploads may not be saved (without any warning) and therefore locating a hard-wired connection is recommended to submit any graded assignments.

Contact the instructor early in the semester if you foresee difficulty with this requirement (e.g., military service or internship abroad). Refer to Canvas > Module 0 “Getting Started” for details.

Grading Rubric

Your semester grade will be determined as follows:

Assignment Category	Possible points for Assignments	Category Weight (%)	Gradebook Points possible	Applicable Policies
Modules (1 – 5) Discussion/Responses (5); drop lowest score	100	25	(4) Discussion/Responses × 25% (weighted) points equals a total of 100 points possible for this category [(4 * 100) * .25] = 100 possible points	“My Choices Grading” “Missed Assignment”
Modules (1 – 5) Activities (5); drop lowest score	100	25	(4) Activities × 25% (weighted) points equals a total of 80 points possible for this category [(4 * 100) * .25] = 100 possible points	“My Choices Grading” “Missed Assignment”
Modules (1 – 5) Homework (5); drop lowest score	100	25	(4) Homework assignments × 25% (weighted) points equals a total of 80 points possible for this category [(4 * 100) * .25] = 100 possible points	“My Choices Grading” “Missed Assignment”
Modules (1 – 5) Quizzes (5); drop lowest score	100	25	(4) Quizzes × 25% (weighted) points equals a total of 80 points possible for this category [(4 * 100) * .25] = 100 possible points	“My Choices Grading” “Missed Assignment”
Module (6): Discussion/Responses (1); Homework (1); Activity (1); Quiz (1); all scores included	100	25	400 Module 6 points × 25% (weighted) points equals a total of 80 points possible for this category [(4 * 100) * .25] = 100 possible points	“My Choices Grading”
TOTAL			500 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	

All assignments are due at 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time unless specifically noted otherwise

Syllabus Quiz
Mid-semester Course Feedback
End of semester Course Feedback

Opens Module 1
5 possible points extra credit
5 possible points extra credit

Grade Calculation

Your final grade for the course will be determined by the total of all points earned during the semester divided by 500 total points. Letter grades are calculated in Canvas at two (2) decimal points and will be awarded accordingly:

A	≥ 93
A-	90.00 – 92.99
B+	87.00 – 89.99
B	83.00 – 86.99
B-	80.00 – 82.99
C+	77.00 – 79.99
C	73.00 – 76.99
C-	70.00 – 72.99
D+	67.00 – 69.99
D	63.00 – 66.99
D-	60.00 – 62.99
E	≤ 59.99

If you have a dispute about a grade posted in Canvas, you must contact the professor within 7 days after the grade is posted. After that, there will be no appeal on posted grades. Please be advised that this is your responsibility to do so within the time limit.

Refer to the Grading Rubric above to calculate your points earned; do not rely on the Canvas Gradebook prior to the end of the semester. An email will be sent when final grades are calculated in Canvas.

Note that a grade of C or better is required to earn Gen Ed credit.

UF grading policy:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

UF POLICIES and ASSISTANCE

Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Absences 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/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

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. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/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."*

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: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

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.

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. Additional information can be found at www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being 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.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/*
 - Counseling Services
 - Groups and Workshops
 - Outreach and Consultation
 - Self-Help Library
 - Wellness Coaching
- U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/
- *Career Connections Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/*

Complaint Resolution Procedure

Each online distance learning program has a process for, and will make every attempt to resolve, student complaints within its academic and administrative departments at the program level. See <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> for more details.

University of Florida Policies upheld at all times.

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

Additional information to help you succeed this semester:

1. Check your email regularly; students are responsible for UFL email & Canvas Announcements. Additional information regarding contacting the instructor and forwarding Canvas Announcements is outlined in Canvas Module 0 “Getting Started”.
2. Don’t wait until the “last minute” to begin or upload/submit assignments in this class. You are the Manager of your own time! Past performance indicates that “A” students begin & submit assignments well before posted due dates.
3. All assignments are open-book/ open-notes. You may discuss any assignment with a friend BEFORE you begin an assignment and complete all written responses in your own words, explaining YOUR OWN reasoning. Failure to write independently is considered academic dishonesty – similar written responses will be submitted to Dean of Students Office for review.
4. Assignments are not difficult, but they are designed to motivate your thinking. Do not wait until the last minute to read assignment instructions or your grades will suffer due to inadequate reflection of topics assigned.
5. Quizzes will contain information provided in the lecture, textbook, and assigned readings.
6. Organize your Due Dates in a calendar, planner, or mobile device in an effort to remain organized.
7. YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED not to procrastinate submitting assignments. The “Missed Assignment” lowest score drop policy is intended to protect you from life events that are expected to happen during the semester (e.g., computer problems, forgetting assignments, family emergencies, job interviews, family responsibilities). Avoid waiting until the “last minute.” Students in previous semesters who have procrastinated at the beginning of the semester generally experience frustration and negative impacts to their semester grade as life events will continue to occur throughout the semester.
8. Please ASK if you have questions or concerns, the TA’s and I are here as resources for you and we want you to be successful in your academic efforts!
9. Treat this class as you would any in- person class with relevant expectations and time commitment dedicated as appropriate.

If you have any questions about content you do not see answered in the syllabus, please ask.

GO GATORS!!!

Critical dates and deadlines (Eastern Standard Time - EST) Do not wait until the last minute to get started.

ACTIVITY	MODULES OPEN @ 9:00 am	ASSIGNMENTS DUE @ 5:00 pm
MODULE 0 OPENS: Getting started (Lessons 0.1 – 0.4)	8/22/18	
MyEconLab – Getting Started Practice Questions		8/30/18
Syllabus Quiz		8/30/18
MODULE 1 OPENS: Understanding what economics is and what economists do (Lessons 1 – 4)	8/22/18	
Discussion 1 & Responses		9/11/18
Activity 1		9/12/18
Homework_01		9/13/18
Quiz 1 (Lessons 1-4)		9/13/18
MODULE 2 OPENS: The fundamental theory of markets and how they operate (Lessons 5 – 8)	9/05/18	
Discussion 2 & Responses		9/25/18
Activity 2		9/26/18
Homework_02		9/27/18
Quiz 2 (Lessons 5-8)		9/27/18
MODULE 3 OPENS: Using economic models to analyze resource allocations (Lessons 9 – 12)	9/19/18	
Discussion 3 & Responses		10/09/18
Activity 3		10/10/18
Homework_03		10/11/18
Quiz 3 (Lessons 9-12)		10/11/18
Mid-Semester Feedback - extra credit		10/11/18
MODULE 4 OPENS: Applying economic analysis to food issues (Lessons 13 – 16)	10/03/18	
Discussion 4 & Responses		10/23/18
Activity 4		10/24/18
Homework_04		10/25/18
Quiz 4 (Lessons 13-16)		10/25/18
MODULE 5 OPENS: Show me the money (Lessons 17 – 20)	10/17/18	
Discussion 5 & Responses		11/06/18
Activity 5		11/07/18
Homework_05		11/08/18
Quiz 5 (Lessons 17-20)		11/08/18
MODULE 6 OPENS: Income and agriculture policies (Lessons 21 – 24)	10/31/18	
Discussion 6 & Responses		11/27/18
Activity 6		11/28/18
Homework_06		11/29/18
Quiz 6 (Lessons 21-24)		11/29/18
MODULE 7 OPENS: Conclusion	11/14/18	
End-Semester Feedback		12/05/18
UF Course Evaluation		12/05/18

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