

AGEC 5011
Seminar in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
Fall 2017 - Spring 2018

AGEC 5011 is a required course of the M.S. program. The goals and objectives of this course are to:

1. Have students start thinking like economists
 - a. Develop a thorough working understanding of economic and business management concepts
 - b. Integrate & synthesize economic concepts to public policy issues & current events
2. Communicate economic concepts and information to professional and lay audiences

Seminar activities span both fall and spring semesters, and all students are expected to participate in seminar activities both semesters regardless of when they enter the program. Students actually register for AGEC 5011 during their second semester, so students who enter the M.S. program summer or fall register for AGEC 5011 spring semester, and students who enter the program spring semester, register for AGEC 5011 fall semester.

Fall semester, all M.S. students will meet together for a series of discussions, presentations and assignments as outlined below. Spring semester, thesis and non-thesis students will meet together and separately as directed to work on their capstone projects.

This course will have three elements.

1. Participation/presentation
2. Writing/editing/review/critique
3. Capstone project
 - a. Case Study
 - b. Thesis proposal

Students are expected to attend and participate by being prepared to: (1) discuss assigned readings, (2) frame policy issues in economic terms and articulate alternative approaches to issues and possible consequences of each approach, and (3) engage colleagues in discussion of issues based on economic principles. Students will be prepared to discuss the assigned article(s) and how it applies to their program of study and potential careers. In addition, students are expected to be attentive listeners and engaged members of the audience during student presentations.

The fall 2017 seminar schedule is outlined below – subject to change.

August 24	Seminar Orientation – including instructions for first presentations
August 31	Professionalism discussion – Negroni article
September 7	No class
September 14	Library Resources Ms. Donna Daniels Mullins Library 102
September 21	Writing tips – first writing assignment
September 28	Review of first writing assignment Pointers for Home Economy Presentations
October 5	Home Economy Presentations
October 12	Home Economy Presentations
October 19	Home Economy Presentations

October 20	Distinguished Alumni presentation
October 26	No class
November 2	Alternatives/consequences approach to policy issues Second writing assignment
November 9	Second writing assignment due Discussion
November 16	Discussion and review of second writing assignment
November 30	Review and overview of spring activities

The spring semester will be devoted to capstone projects. Thesis students will work with Dr. Nalley to develop their thesis proposal. Non-thesis students will work with Dr. Halbrook and other faculty on a case study. The case study project will be a team effort. Typically, these are three-person teams, but that can vary depending on the number on non-thesis students each semester.

Thesis proposals and case studies will be presented by the students in a public forum/seminar before the end of the spring semester. Case study presentations will be judged by a faculty panel. Students with the best presentations will be invited to participate in the AAEA Graduate Student Case Study Competition at the summer meeting in Boston, expenses paid by the department.

January 18 Project orientation – thesis and non-thesis students meet separately

Thesis students and non-thesis student will meet with Dr. Nalley and Dr. Halbrook respectively throughout the semester as announced.

Thesis students will complete and present their thesis proposal and a draft of their literature review section by the end of the semester. This work will be done under the guidance of Dr. Nalley and in consultation with their major professor.

The expected grade in this course is A. This grade can be earned by regular attendance and completing all assignments on time and following instructions.

Academic Honesty

As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail. Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's 'Academic Integrity Policy' which may be found at <http://provost.uark.edu/> Students with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor.

Inclement Weather

All seminar events are covered by the University policy on inclement weather <http://vcfa.uark.edu/Documents/2100.pdf>.

Students With Disabilities:

If you want to request reasonable accommodations for this class due to a disability, you must first register with the Center for Educational Access (CEA). The CEA will notify the instructor but the student still has the obligation to meet with the instructor to plan the procedures required for adequate accommodation.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at emergency.uark.edu.

Severe Weather (Tornado Warning):

Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel. Seek shelter in the basement or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside. If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building. Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

CALL- 9-1-1

AVOID- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.

DENY- Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it's safe.

DEFEND- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack