AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT 439
Management of Agricultural Systems I
Fall 2014

Instructor: Gary Riskowski
103 Price Hobgood Bldg.
845-7619
riskowski@tamu.edu

Office Hours: T TR 8:30-9:30, 11:00-12:00 or by appointment

Instructor: Russell McGee
143 Scoates Hall
845-3659
romcgee@tamu.edu

Office Hours: MWF 9:00-11:00, T TR 2:00-4:00 or by appointment

TA: Raminderdeep (Rummy) Sidhu
315 Scoates Hall
dsidhu@neo.tamu.edu

Class Time/Location: 9:35-10:50am, Tue & Thur / 203 AEPM


Course Objectives: 1. To use the analytical skills and business knowledge from the AGSM curriculum to solve problems common in industry.

2. To develop the professional communication skills needed to be successful in business.

3. To develop problem solving skills to deal with open-ended technical and management problems.

4. To gain experience working to solve an industry problem.

5. To enhance understanding and appreciation of the role of professionalism and continuous education in career building.

Note: AGSM 439 is designated as a “W” class. W classes are writing intensive classes and therefore, a major objective of the class will be to improve your writing skills.
Ecampus: This course will use Ecampus to provide information related to the class, assign homeworks, and turn in work. Ecampus grade book will be used to report all grades.

Grading Policy: The grade will be assigned based on the grading system below. Grading in this course will be based primarily on the homework assignments and class engagement. Each assignment will have expectations for the work to be done and a grading rubric associated with it. Following are the items that will be used to establish your course grade. Note: You must also pass the W Course requirement from this class (See the section on W-Course).

100 pts – Individual Information Sheet (Individual)

300 pts - Project Definition@@ (Individual)

900 pts – Individual Section Writing Assignment** (Individual)

650 pts - Final Report (Team)

300 pts – Project Description for Major Project@@ (Individual)

150 pts – Team meetings with instructors

2400 pts – TOTAL

±300 pts - Team Participation## (Individual)

**Each team member will select one of the Sections to write (only one member per section). This assignment will be done in two parts – the first draft will be reviewed by the instructors and returned for a re-write, then re-submitted to be graded. Up to 1/3 of the final points for each assignment can be deducted for a low quality draft or no draft submittal. The draft must be re-written and re-submitted or the final grade will be zero.

@@ These assignments will be done in two parts – the first draft will be reviewed by the instructors and returned for a re-write, then re-submitted to be graded. Up to 1/3 of the final points for each assignment can be deducted for a low quality draft or no draft submittal. The draft must be re-written and re-submitted or the final grade will be zero.

##See the separate section in this syllabus on team participation.

Class Engagement: Class engagement includes attendance, attentiveness, participation, and professional behavior. Grade points will be deducted (-50 pts/class) for unexcused absences and classes with non-professional behavior.

Late Work Policy: All assignments are due at the time and date posted. If an assignment is turned in late the writer will be deducted 20% the first day late and 13% for every day
after until a week late then it will be a 0; unless you have an excuse that meets
the criteria given in Student Rule 7 (http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07).
Assignments may be submitted after that date to receive feedback from the
instructor, but zero points will be given in these situations if not turned in within
the week time frame. The time/date posted on the assignment submission will
be used to determine if the deadline was met. The purpose for this stringent
policy on meeting deadlines is to prepare you for the expectations of business
practice. Activities such as proposal submissions or bidding on contracts have
similar fixed deadlines that determine if a submission will be considered.

Team Participation: The AGSM 439 class is based on a team working together to find a solution to
the given problem and then to evaluate the potential of that solution for
successful adoption. The team is expected to meet twice with one instructor
during the semester. This is recommended to be after homework 5 and 9 are
completed. The team will be fully responsible for setting up the appointment
with the instructor to meet and also setting the meeting area – schedule
meeting rooms well ahead of time by contacting Susie in the main office. The
team is also responsible for developing and determining the information
content of the writing assignments. The final report is a team effort.

All members of the team are expected to have equal contribution to the team
effort. Each member should take initiative to contribute to the overall work of
the team, and should not wait for the other team members to assign tasks.
Situations where team contributions are unequal will result in adjustments to
the overall course grade points based upon the relative level of contribution.
Individual levels of contribution to the team will be assessed using confidential
evaluation forms. These forms will be sent at the end of the semester to each
team member. In addition, the instructor for the team will make an evaluation
and tabulate the evaluations of others. Participation will be evaluated based on
the percentage of contribution to the team effort by each member on the
writing of the final document for the semester, for the overall team effort over
the semester, and the participation in team meetings.

Grade Assignment: Letter grades will be assigned using the standard thresholds of 90, 80, 70, 60 on
the adjusted course average for A, B, C, or D, respectively. The instructor
reserves the right to adjust these thresholds downward for the class as a whole
if the overall course average distribution justifies an adjustment. Individual
grade assignments may be adjusted as well in the case of extenuating
circumstances, but individual adjustment will be rare.

W Course: This course is a writing intensive (W) Course. The Core Curriculum Review
Committee established the writing-intensive course graduation requirement at
Texas A&M University. Each student must score 60% or better on the individual
writing assignments of the course to pass the course. It is possible to have an overall course average above 60% and still fail the course if the individual writing component is failed. (The W Course Advisory Committee wants to prevent the case where a student might receive an A in much of the course but neglect the portion that requires individual writing. This student, if passed, would get credit for a graduation requirement in writing without successfully demonstrating writing ability.)

Tentative Class Schedule AGSM 439

9/2 – Introduction; HW 0
9/4 – Degree plans (Ashlea Schroeder); Project Definition; Background Section

9/9 – Guest Speaker - Librarian (Deva Reddy)
9/11 – Business Writing Style

9/16 – Guest Speaker - Writing Center
9/18 – Business Writing Style

9/23 – Flow Analysis /Potential Solutions/Selection Analysis/Decision Matrix
9/25 – Guest Speaker- Writing Center/ Effective Teamwork

9/30 – Career Fair
10/2 – Review Background; Economic analysis

10/7 – Guest Speaker – Career Center (David McMahon)
10/9 – Review Flow Analysis; Recommended Solution; Risk and Uncertainty

10/14 – Effective Teamwork
10/16 – Implementation Plan

10/21 – Joining the Workforce
10/23 – Electronic Communications for Business

10/28 – Guest Speaker
10/30 – Review Economic Analysis/Final Solution; Final Report; Executive Summary

11/4 – Conducting a Business Meeting
11/6 – Review Risk and Uncertainty; Discuss projects for AGSM 440

11/11 – Guest Speaker
11/13 – Discussion and selection of projects for AGSM 440

11/18 – Guest Speaker
11/20 – Guest Speaker

11/25 – Discussions with instructors
11/27 – Thanksgiving Holiday
12/2 – Discuss project definition for AGSM 440
12/4 – Discuss final report
12/9 – Last day of class; Finalize Class

**Homework Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HW</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Returned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Project Definition</td>
<td>9/11, 9/25</td>
<td>9/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Background Section</td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>10/32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Flow Analysis/Decision Matrix/Potential Solutions/Selection Analysis</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Final Background Section</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>10/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Final Flow Analysis/Decision Matrix/Potential Solutions/Selection Analysis</td>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>10/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Economic Analysis/Recommended Solution</td>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>10/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Risk and Uncertainty/Implementation</td>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>11/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Final Economic Analysis/Recommended Solution</td>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>11/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Final Report</td>
<td>12/9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Project Definition-440</td>
<td>11/20, 12/4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Attendance**

You are expected to attend and engage in class each day that we are meeting, and to attend all team meetings. Any excuses recognized by Texas A&M University will be accepted as excused absences. All other absences must be excused by the instructor before it will be considered an excused absence. It is understood that your team may need to travel, or have some other conflict with the scheduled class period. For these to be considered excused absences, you must contact the instructor in writing prior to the class and receive a written approval. If there was no prior approval the form that will need to be submitted will be posted on the eCampus information page. Work conflicts will not be excused absences. However, a limited number of interview trips will be excused on a case-by-case basis. The course schedule is set for the semester, and you are expected to schedule around it.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu. If you qualify for special accommodations, please inform the instructor as soon as possible.
Additional Accommodations

If any student in this class requires accommodation related to a unique circumstance, please make an appointment to see the course instructors as soon as possible. Appropriate arrangements will be made.

Academic Integrity

Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal; nor do they tolerate those who do.

For many years, Aggies have followed a Code of Honor in an effort to unify the aims of all Aggies toward a high code of ethics and dignity. It functions as a symbol to all Aggies, promoting understanding and loyalty to truth and confidence in each other. Students should refer to the University policy on academic integrity found in the Honor Council website: http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/honorcouncil.php. All violations will be handled as specified by University Guidelines.

The University Writing Center

We encourage all students make full use of the University Writing Center, its resources and expertise. You may schedule appointments with writing consultants at the Centers on main campus on the second floor of Evans Library and in the West Campus Library. Additionally, many resources are available on the web site (http://writingcenter.tamu.edu), such as helpful tips for editing, planning, revising and proofreading your writing. You can make an appointment on the web site or by calling (458-1455). You may also submit documents for on-line assistance.