



FORT HAYS STATE
UNIVERSITY

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AGRI 410 – AGRICULTURAL FINANCE

Fort Hays State University
Werth College of Science, Technology, and Mathematics
Department of Agriculture
Dr. Alan Xu

1. COURSE INFORMATION

Credit Hours	3.0
Semester and Year	Fall 2025
Course Prerequisites	AGRI 220 or ACCT 203 and ECON 201
Location of Class	Online via the FHSU Blackboard System

2. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Dr. Alan Xu

Office Location: 216 Albertson Hall

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 8:30-12:00; 12:45-14:15; 16:00-17:00 or by appointment

Email: y_xu46@fhsu.edu

Contact Procedure and Policy:

The best way to contact me is by email. You are welcome to reach me to schedule a zoom meeting with me via email. Usually, I respond to e-mails within 24 hours. When you email me, please put Course ID and your name/student ID in the "Subject" line. Please only use your FHSU Gmail to communicate. External email addresses will be ignored.

3. TEXTBOOK AND COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbook:

Peter Barry and Paul Ellinger. 2012. Financial Management in Agriculture. 7th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson. (ISBN-10 0-13-503759-X; ISBN-13 978-0-13-503759-1)

A financial calculator is required. HP 10bii+ or Texas Instruments BA II Plus financial calculator is highly recommended.

Supplementary Book:

Fundamentals of Futures and Options Markets: An Introduction. 9th edition. John C. Hull (2021). Boston. Pearson. ISBN: 9780134083247. Editions not older than the 6th are also good.

Computer Requirements:

Please refer to the [TigerTech webpage](#) to check the requirements. If you have any technical issues, contact FHSU TigerTech 785-628-3478, notify the instructor.



4. COURSE DESCRIPTION

FHSU Catalogue Description:

Introduction to farm financial management, including financial intermediaries and information flows in agriculture, investment analysis, and financial alternatives for farm resource control.

Recommendations for Success:

You should log into the course at least twice a week to participate in course activities, interact with your instructor and peers as needed. Be prepared to discuss assigned readings, ask insightful questions of presenters and contribute to in-class or virtual discussions. At all times, students should maintain a professional demeanor. Active participation is a significant part of this course. The quality and quantity of participation in on-line activities will be evaluated as part of the course grade.

5. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will learn and apply basic economic reasoning to the financial management of agricultural business practices. At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Read and analyze financial statements for the purpose of evaluating investment decisions.
- Describe the principle of time-value of money and apply this concept to valuing annuities, perpetuities, loan values, bond values, stock values, and capital investment opportunities.
- Understand the conceptual relationship between the expected return and the relevant risk of individual assets and a portfolio of assets.
- Understand the concept of cost of capital and role of leverage and apply these concepts in the determination of the optimal capital structure.

6. COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Delivery Method:

Content therein will consist of lecture videos, slides, and various activities for each lesson module. The instructor will be available via email or Zoom to discuss course content with students individually.

Course Structure:

There is an assigned module for each week of the semester. Students will be expected to complete the assignments for each module by the completion date of that assigned module unless otherwise noted.

Assignments:

There will be 10 homework assignments worth 30 points each (e.g. 300 points total).



Group project:

The project will be in the form of a PowerPoint presentation in a group of three recorded and uploaded to Blackboard. More information on the project will be provided later in the semester. The presented group project is worth 200 points.

Case Studies:

There will be two cases study exams. Each case study exam is worth 250 points (e.g. 500 points total).

Late Assignments:

Assignments are to be submitted via Blackboard by **11:59 PM on the assigned due date, typically on Monday nights**. Unless otherwise agreed, late assignments will be penalized as follows: -10% if between 1 minute and 72 hours late. Assignments submitted more than 72 hours late will not be accepted. In other words, assignments of the previous week will strictly NOT be accepted after 11:59 PM on Thursday nights.

Make-up Exams:

You will only be allowed to retake the exam if you have an excused absence, you submit the proper written documentation for an acceptable reason, and written documentation is provided. If it is a planned absence (such as for a religious holiday, military obligation or FHSU affiliated activity; see additional information under Attendance below), at least one-week notice is required to make the appropriate accommodations. When this is not possible (e.g., due to a medical emergency), the instructor should be notified as soon as possible. The make-up exam will be scheduled for the following week. If these instructions are not followed, you will receive a zero on the exam.

Civility:

Mature and respectful behavior is always expected when participating in course activities and interacting with others.

7. COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and might change during the semester depending on how the course evolves. Students will be notified of the changes at the Blackboard course site, and email. If time is mentioned in the course, it refers to the Central Time Zone.

Week #	Topics/Modules	Chapter	Assignments
Week 1 Aug. 18-Aug. 24	Nature and Scope of Financial Management	1	
Week 2 Aug. 25-Aug. 31	Financial Statements	2	1 Due Sep. 2*
Week 3 Sep. 1-Sep. 7	Financial Analysis and Control	3	2 Due Sep. 9
Week 4 Sep. 8-Sep. 14	An Overview of Financial Planning	4	3 Due Sep. 16
Week 5 Sep. 15-Sep. 21	Financial Analysis and Control	5	4 Due Sep. 23
Week 6 Sep. 22-Sep. 28	Capital Structure, Leverage, and Financial Risk	6	5 Due Sep. 30
Week 7 Sep. 29-Oct. 5	Risk Management	7	6 Due Oct. 7
Week 8 Oct. 6-Oct. 12	The Time Value of Money	8	7 Due Oct. 14
Week 9 Oct. 13-Oct. 19	The Time Value of Money	8	
Oct. 20, Sat: First Case Study Due			
Week 10 Oct. 20-Oct. 26	Investment Analysis & Capital Budgeting	9	8 Due Oct. 27
Week 11 Oct. 27-Nov. 2	Costs of Capital, Inflation, and Risk in Investment Planning	10-11	9 Due Nov. 3
Week 12 Nov. 3-Nov. 9	Leasing Decisions	12-13	10 Due Nov. 10
Week 13 Nov. 10-Nov. 16	Market Structure of Agriculture	14	Group Project
Week 14 Nov. 17-Nov. 23	Global Financial Markets & Financial Institutions	15-16	Group Project
Week 15	Thanksgiving Break		
Week 16 Dec. 1-Dec. 7	Loan Pricing, Profitability, and Financial Intermediaries	17-18	Group Project
Dec. 8, Mon: Second Case Study Due			

*Labor Day Holiday is Sep. 1, so the due day is moved to Sep. 2, Tue.



8. ASSESSMENT METHODS AND GRADING SCALES

The assessment methods and grading scale are as follows:

Assignments	30%	300
Group Project Presentation	20%	200
First Case Study	25%	250
Second Case Study	25%	250
Total	100%	1000

A	100.00% - 90%
B	80.00%–89.99%
C	70.00%–79.99%
D	60.00%–69.99%
U	below 60.00%

9. STUDENT HELP RESOURCES

- [FHSU Blackboard Student Tutorials](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student): <https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student>
- [Student Accessibility Services](https://www.fhsu.edu/health-and-wellness/accessibility/): <https://www.fhsu.edu/health-and-wellness/accessibility/>
- [Health and Wellness Services](https://www.fhsu.edu/health-and-wellness/): <https://www.fhsu.edu/health-and-wellness/>
- [Career Services](https://www.fhsu.edu/career/): <https://www.fhsu.edu/career/>
- [Technology Services](https://www.fhsu.edu/technology/): <https://www.fhsu.edu/technology/>
- [Forsyth Library Research Help and Tutorials](https://www.fhsu.edu/library/): <https://www.fhsu.edu/library/>
- [Academic Tutoring](https://www.fhsu.edu/retention/asp/free-tutoring/): <https://www.fhsu.edu/retention/asp/free-tutoring/>
- [Writing Center](https://www.fhsu.edu/writingcenter/): <https://www.fhsu.edu/writingcenter/>

Special Learning Conditions/Accommodations:

Fort Hays State University, in accordance with The Americans With Disabilities Act, provides assistance and resources for students with disabilities. The Student Accessibility Services office is located within Health and Wellness Services in the Fischli-Wills Center for Student Success, Room 301, 785-628-4401. This is the appropriate office for students, faculty or staff to contact to verify and notify the University of a student's documented disability. After verification of a documented disability, the Student Accessibility Services office will initiate a request for services. Students should contact the instructor within the first two weeks of class if they require special accommodation for test taking, carrying out assignments, or any other need for assistance.

Academic Assistance for FHSU Online Students

With FHSU's FREE online tutoring, you can:

- Connect on-demand with a live tutor. Available [subjects](#).
- Schedule a live tutoring session.
- Work with a writing lab tutor throughout the entire writing process for any written assignments.
- Access study tools such as lessons, practice and diagnostic tests, and flashcards.



Take advantage of help in a variety of subjects! Mathematics, ESOL, Live Writing Help, English, Business, Sciences, Computer Science & Technology, Nursing, Social Sciences, Languages, Study Skills.

Access to Online Tutoring

Online tutoring is available to students currently registered in all online courses. Access this service in Workday, by clicking the "myFHSU" icon. Under the Academics category, select "Online Tutoring". If you have additional questions, please contact Kathleen Cook at kecook3@fhsu.edu.

10. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- [Academic Honesty](#)
- [Attendance](#)
- [Withdrawal](#)
- [Title IX Policy](#):

FHSU is committed to fostering a safe and productive learning environment. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex, gender, and gender identity are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. This includes all types of gender and relationship violence, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you wish to report an incident or have questions about school policies and procedures regarding Title IX issues, please contact Amy Schaffer, University Compliance Officer and the FHSU Title IX Coordinator, at alschaffer@fhsu.edu or (785) 628- 4175. The Compliance Officer can help connect you to campus and outside resources, discuss all of your reporting options, and assist with any concerns you may have.