

# AAE 320: FARMING SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

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# APOCRYPHAL (FAKE) CHINESE SAYINGS

- Chinese Curse: “May you live in interesting times”



- The Chinese word for “Crisis” is composed of two characters: one for “Danger” and one for “Opportunity”

危機  
危机

- Neither of these is true, but both seem to be especially poignant in our current situation

# CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

- Read the Badger Pledge:  
<https://smartrestart.wisc.edu/badgerpledge/>
- Wear face mask, spread out in classroom, don't get together in large groups
- Monitor yourself for symptoms:  
<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/>
- Do not come to class or go out if you are ill
- Get tested when needed:  
<https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/medical/testing/>
- **Let me know if you test positive or need to quarantine**
- AAE 320: online option, classroom will be livestreamed and recorded

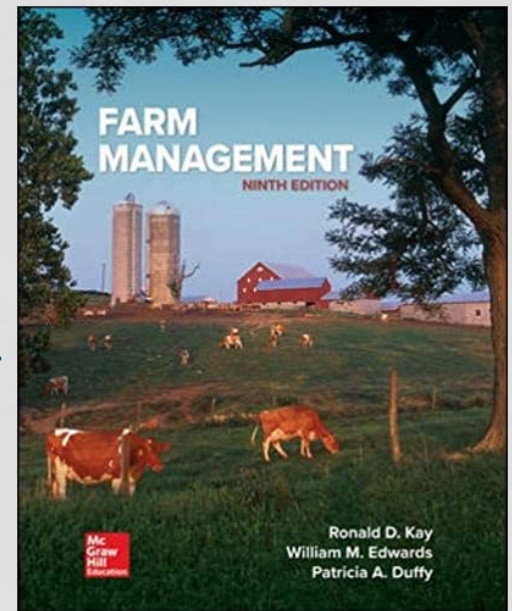
# COURSE OBJECTIVE

- For students to understand basic economic principles and their application to the management of agricultural production systems and to gain an appreciation of the complexity of U.S. agriculture.
- Face-to-Face Classroom Instruction, with potential for online options. If need the on-line option, contact me ASAP.

# COURSE HOMEPAGE

[HTTPS://AAE.WISC.EDU/PDMITCHELL/AAE-320/](https://AAE.WISC.EDU/PDMITCHELL/AAE-320/)

- I will post many materials on the course homepage, some of which you may want to print. You will have printing costs for assignments & exams
- You may have costs to scan and/or clearly photograph pages and submit electronically
- Canvas will be used to collect assignments and to post grades
- No Textbook: Classic text: Kay, Edwards & Duffy (2019)



# GRADING

- Grades calculated based on the following weights
  - Problem Sets 20%
  - Class Discussion & Participation 20%
  - Mid-Term Exams (2 x 20% each) 40%
  - Cumulative Final Exam 20%
- Grading Scale

$\geq 93$	<b>A</b>
$88 \leq \text{and} < 93$	<b>AB</b>
$83 \leq \text{and} < 88$	<b>B</b>
$78 \leq \text{and} < 83$	<b>BC</b>
$70 \leq \text{and} < 78$	<b>C</b>
$60 \leq \text{and} < 70$	<b>D</b>
$< 60$	<b>F</b>

# PROBLEM SETS

- Several (8 or more) through out the semester
- Posted on Course Page as pdf
- Watch lecture videos, do think breaks
- Come to class to discuss and work problem sets
- Submit completed problem sets electronically on Canvas as scans or clear photographs
- Answer key posted on Course Page
- Grades posted on Canvas

# CLASS DISCUSSION & PARTICIPATION

- Special topics to build student awareness of agricultural issues and context for course topics
- Video lecture(s) to watch before class
- Discussion Sheet posted as pdf on Course Page
  - Simple questions to answer (10 points), deeper ones to consider for class
  - Complete and submit via Canvas before class
  - Half credit if completed late (after class)
- Small group and large group discussion in class or online via Zoom breakout rooms



# EXAMS

- Two Mid-terms exams and a cumulative Final
- Announced at least 1 week in advance
  - **Best Guess**: Oct. 9 and Nov. 6 (**could change**)
- Based on lectures, materials posted on course page and discussed in class, and problem sets
- Expect questions to challenge your understanding and use of managerial concepts and tools
- Previous exams and keys available on the course page to aid your studies
- Final Exam: Dec. 12 (Saturday), 12:25 PM – 2:25 PM

# TOPICS COVERED IN AAE 320

- Introduction
  - Course Overview
  - Wisconsin Agriculture, The US Food System
- Production Economics
  - Partial Budgeting
  - Single Input Production Economics
  - Multiple Input Production Economics
  - Cost Economics
- Special Topics
- EXAM #1 (Around October 9<sup>th</sup>)

# TOPICS COVERED IN AAE 320

- Farm Finance
  - Balance Sheets
  - Depreciation
  - Income Statement
- Taxes, Business Arrangements and Farm Transfer
  - Overview of Farm Taxes
  - Business Arrangement Alternatives
  - Tax Considerations for Farm Transfer
- Special Topics
- EXAM #2                      (**Around November 6<sup>th</sup>**)

# TOPICS COVERED IN AAE 320

- U.S. Farm Policy and Programs
  - Commodity Support Programs
  - Crop Insurance Programs
- Agricultural Sustainability
- Special Topics
  
- FINAL EXAM      DEC. 12, 12:25 PM – 2:25 PM

# LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

- We will take a break from lecture to examine an agricultural issue in a discussion-oriented class
  - Agriculture, Nutrients and Water Quality
  - Dairy Farming in Wisconsin
  - Beginning Farmers
- Variety of readings and videos with some questions and writing before class, then in class small and large group discussions
- Goal: to develop an appreciation for the complexity of US agriculture and to practice assessing evidence

# SUMMARY

- Class Homepage is your textbook, get familiar with it; check it regularly
- <https://dae.wisc.edu/pdmitchell/dae-320/>
- Expect lots of work: mostly problem sets and long exams, but it's not rocket science
- **Communicate with me if real life intervenes**
- Email is best: [pdmitchell@wisc.edu](mailto:pdmitchell@wisc.edu)
- Cell phone: 608-320-1162

# STANDARD STUFF

## **Academic Calendar and Religious Observances**

<https://secfac.wisc.edu/academic-calendar/#religious-observances>

## **Academic Integrity Statement**

By virtue of enrollment, each student agrees to uphold the high academic standards of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; academic misconduct is behavior that negatively impacts the integrity of the institution. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these previously listed acts are examples of misconduct which may result in disciplinary action. Examples of disciplinary action include, but is not limited to, failure on the assignment/course, written reprimand, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion.

# MCBURNEY DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER SYLLABUS STATEMENT

The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform me of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. I will work either directly with you or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA. See the McBurney Disability Resource Center: <https://mcburney.wisc.edu/>.



# DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world.