

AEC 435 – AGRICULTURAL POLICY
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Department of Agricultural Sciences
Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. Jose Lopez

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Class Time: TR 8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m., AGIT Room 255

Office Hours: For immediate consultation I will be available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-10:45 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment. You are also welcome to stop by my office at any other time. If I am unable to meet with you at that time we will schedule an appointment.

Required Text: *Agricultural and Food Policy* by R.D. Knutson, JB Penn, B.L. Flinchbaugh, and J.L. Outlaw. Pearson Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 6th Ed., 2007. (ISBN 0131718738)

Prerequisites: None.

Teaching Philosophy:

1. A course must deliver information, concepts and methods that will be useful in the student's professional life. However, learning analytical reasoning skills and improving the ability to process and use information efficiently is more important than memorizing facts and formulas and performing procedures repeatedly.
2. Students learn best when theories, concepts and procedures are explained in plain language as well as formally, and are complemented with examples or applications that are relevant to the students.

Character Formation: It is important during your college education to learn the values and rewards of hard work, responsibility, and honesty. The professor will promote character formation while teaching the course.

Course Description: Analytical treatment of historical, recent and current economic problems, and governmental policies influencing American agriculture and rural America. The focus is on developing an historical and conceptual understanding of the economics of agriculture and how public policy has and does influence the nature and performance of American agriculture.

General Objectives: To show how economic theory can be used to analyze farm programs. To discuss food and agricultural policies in the U.S. and foreign countries. To discuss the historical agricultural policy development and the agricultural policy formation processes.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon satisfactory completion of the course the students will be able to:

- Understand concepts and terminology associated with agricultural and food policy.
- Describe the role of governments in food and agricultural policy.
- Identify and understand major food and agricultural policies in the U.S. and around the world.
- Recognize national and international agencies and organizations involved in agricultural and food policy development and enforcement.
- Understand analytical approaches to more comprehensive agricultural policy.
- Understand research on food and agricultural policy.

Topics:

- Forces of Policy Change
 - Instability, Globalization, Technology, Food Safety, Environment, Industrialization, and Politics.
- Rationale for Government Involvement in Agriculture and Food
 - Conditions, Constraints, Goals, Role and Limits of Economics
- The U.S. Policy Decision Process
 - Public Opinion, Public Groups, Politics, and Minorities
- Geopolitical Centers of Influence
 - NAFTA, MERCOSUR, EU, Japan, China, Russia, and Developing Countries
- World Trade Organization
 - Benefits, Barriers, and Evolution
- U.S. Trade and Development Policy
 - Complexities, Goals, Policies, Developing Market Economies, and Food Security
- U.S. Farm Policies
 - Farm problems, policy goals, options, and programs
- Living with Limited Resources
 - Markets, Farmland, Water, Energy, and Endangered Species and Biodiversity
- Environmental Policy
 - Pollution, Agencies, Evolution, and Policy Options
- Food Safety and Security Policy
 - Agencies, Evolution, and Policy Options
- Food Assistance and Nutrition Policy
 - U.S. and International Hunger
- Future of Agricultural and Food Policy

Grading:

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Final Exam	25%
Quizzes	10%
Homework and/or presentations	7.5%
Attendance and/or participation	7.5%
	100%

Grading Scale:

<u>Range</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100.00	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
Less than 60	F

Exams: No makeup exams will be offered. A grade of zero will be assigned to any missed exams. Make sure you arrive in time.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be announced and will take place during the first 10 to 15 minutes of class. If you miss a quiz because you arrived late, you will be assigned a zero and an absence. Make sure you arrive in time. Quizzes will be discussed in class and should be considered very important material for exams. Students are also welcome to ask questions during office hours.

Homework: Selective homework will be graded and discussed in class. Homework should be considered very important material for exams. Students are welcome to ask questions during office hours.

Class Attendance: A maximum of two unexcused absences will be allowed. Each additional unexcused absence will reduce your earned attendance grade by 3.33 points (30 meetings * 3.33 \approx 100 points). The student is expected to use the unexcused absences for the days he/she gets sick or cannot attend to class because of a non-serious foreseeable or unforeseeable cause (e.g., flat tires, car problems, not feeling well, doctor and dentist appointments, visits to health clinics, field trips, sport activities and events, etc.). Excused absences must be for serious and unforeseeable causes, and fully documented. The instructor will pass attendance every class day during the first 5 minutes, except for exam and quiz days. If you are late, but arrive during the first 15 minutes of class, you should contact the instructor at the end of the class and you will earn $\frac{1}{2}$ of a regular class attendance. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor in these cases. Similarly, if you come to class, you are required to stay until the end of the class period; otherwise, you will earn $\frac{1}{2}$ of a regular class attendance.

Class Participation: Students should come to class prepared by reading and completing course assignments prior to class. It is the students' responsibility to be familiar with and understand all previously covered material prior to each new lecture. Class participation is about answering the instructor's questions and/or providing your constructive comments, ideas, or opinion when discussing examples, homework, and in-class exercises. Students are encouraged to ask questions when they do not understand the class material.

Students with Disabilities: 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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Counseling Center: A student that faces a crisis or a serious and unforeseeable event that affects his/her class performance must contact the Counseling Center, Student Services Building, Room 204, Phone (903) 886-5145. If important class material or course assignments are missed because of such crisis or event, the student must contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity: Students must follow the *Code of Student Conduct* in the *Student Guidebook* (<http://web.tamuc.edu/admissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>). Any form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic honesty is defined on *Chapter 13 Students (Academic)* of the *TAMUC Rules and Procedures* (<http://web.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/>):

“Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

eCollege: This course is offered web enhanced. Students will be able to download PowerPoint presentations and other important class material from the eCollege website for the course (<http://www.online.tamuc.org/>).

Important Dates:

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| Aug. 27 th , Tuesday | First day of this class. |
| Sep. 11 th , Wednesday | Last day to drop a 16 week course with remaining enrolled with 100% refund. |
| Nov. 1 st , Thursday | Last day to drop a 16 week course while still enrolled (Q grade / No refund). |
| Dec. 5 th , Thursday | Last day of this class. |
| Dec. 10 th , Tuesday | Final Exam, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. |

The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this syllabus during the semester.