

AGEC 429 Agricultural and Food Policy
Room 101, Heep Center
9:35 - 10:50 a.m., Tuesday & Thursday

Fall 2017 Syllabus

Course Description: Analysis of the causes, nature, and effects of government participation in agriculture; and interrelationship of the American agriculture and agribusiness sector with the political and economic system, public administration, and interest group representation. **Special emphasis is given to learning the writing skills and communication style of policy participants.**

Prerequisites: AGEC 105 or ECON 202 or ECON 203; ENGL 104; and Junior or Senior Classification (i.e., 60 or more completed hours)

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Email: Please, ALWAYS put AGEC 429" on subject line of your e-mails to us

Course Web Address: www.afpc.tamu.edu/courses/

The website contains a copy of the syllabus and old exams

Text: Agriculture, Biofuels, and Food Policy: Policies, Politics, and Economics, Knutson and Outlaw.
This packet is currently in revision. Copies of the packet can be purchased at Barnes & Noble at the MSC, Textbook Solutions or Texas Aggieland Bookstore at Northgate within the first couple weeks of class.

Students enrolled in the Honors section will be assigned additional reading materials to complete an additional in-depth writing assignment. Honors students will also take a field trip to Washington D.C. during the semester.

Projected Exam Dates:

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|-------------------|--|
| Exam I | (October 3rd) |
| Exam II | (October 31st) |
| Exam III | (November 28th) |
| Final Exam | Friday, December 8th 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. |

Attendance: Attendance is taken each day at 10:00 a.m. Although not required, attendance will assist us in dealing with borderline situations.

Grade Determination:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Random Quizzes | 5 x 20 | = | 100 Possible Points |
| Random Assignments | 6 x 10 | = | 60 Possible Points |
| Writing Assignments | 5 x 60 | = | 300 Possible Points |
| Exam I | 1 x 100 | = | 100 Possible Points |
| Exam II | 1 x 100 | = | 100 Possible Points |
| Exam III | 1 x 100 | = | 100 Possible Points |
| Final Exam | 1 x 100 | = | <u>100 Possible Points</u> |
| | | | 860 Total Points |

Note: *Graded writing assignments constitute 35% of the total grade. Bonus points will be added to final total based on outstanding participation observed in class.*

Grades: 89.5% - 100% will be needed for an A
79.5% - 89.4% will be needed for a B
69.5% - 79.4% will be needed for a C
59.5% - 69.4% will be needed for a D
59.4% or lower will be an F

Examinations and Assignments:

- Examinations will be a combination of True/False, multiple choice and short answer questions, along with graphs.
- Three exams and a comprehensive final exam will be given. All exams will count 100 points.
- Students will be allowed to make-up a missed exam ONLY if the absence was due to a University-excused absence. To be excused, the student must notify the instructor in writing (an acknowledged e-mail message is acceptable) by the end of the second working day (i.e., Monday - Friday) after the absence. This notification should include an explanation of why notice could not be sent prior to the class. Within one week of the last date of the absence, the student must also provide documentation substantiating the reason for the absence that is satisfactory to the instructor. For illness, documentation should include a note from a doctor or clinic.
- Review sessions will be offered prior to the exams.
- There will be five writing assignments during the semester. Each of the assignments will count for 60 points.

Writing Instructions:

- Writing expectations and guidelines will be covered during the first week of class. A representative from the University Writing Center will be invited, as needed, to present a review of basic grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Writing concepts and principles covered in AGEC 217 will be further developed.
- Each paper should be written to an audience of legislators and legislative aides. The papers are to be double-spaced with varying lengths but generally not longer than one page. **Sources may be cited on a second page.**
- A minimum of two papers will be returned with feedback from the instructor on how students can further improve their writing skills. Students should use these comments to improve the final drafts and other writing assignments throughout the semester. Revisions for these two papers will be due the following week, providing a chance for students to improve their grades and writing skills. Final grades will then be assigned.
- Each student will participate in at least one peer review throughout the semester, in which they will read at least one other student's paper and provide helpful comments for its improvement.

Copyright:

Please note that all handouts and supplements used in this course are copyrighted. This includes all materials generated for this class, including (but not limited to) syllabi, exams, in-class materials, review sheets, and lecture outlines. Materials may be downloaded or photocopied for personal use only and may not be given or sold to other individuals.

Americans with Disabilities (ADA):

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. Texas A&M University has a strong institutional commitment to the principle of diversity in all areas. In that spirit, admission to Texas A&M University and any of its sponsored programs is open to all qualified individuals without regard to subgroup, class, or stereotype.

If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Disability Services. The phone number is 845-1637. ADA accommodations will be made in accordance with the law.

Academic Integrity Statement:

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own ideas excerpts or total reproduction of work, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. If you have questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section Academic Misconduct.

Scholastic Honesty and Classroom Rules:

A note on cheating -- it is not tolerated! If you are caught in the act, you will automatically receive a zero on the work in question. Your instructor will then proceed in completing the Honor Code Violation Report form and report you, through the Department of Agricultural Economics Undergraduate Office, to the Honor Council. For many years, Aggies have followed a Code of Honor, which is stated in this very simple statement:

An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.

The Aggie Code of Honor is an effort to unify the aims of all Texas A&M men and women toward a high code of ethics and personal dignity. For most, living under this code will be no problem, as it asks nothing of a person that is beyond reason. It only calls for honesty and integrity, characteristics that Aggies have always exemplified. The Aggie Code of Honor functions as a symbol to all Aggies, promoting understanding and loyalty to truth and confidence in each other.

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information, please visit: www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor. On all course work, assignments, and examinations at Texas A&M University, the following Honor Pledge shall be preprinted and signed by the student: On my honor, as an Aggie, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ UIN: _____