

# Syllabus

## Course Information

Course Number: AGE 429  
Course Title: Agricultural and Food Policy  
Sections: 901, 902 and 970  
Time: 12:45 - 2:00 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday  
Location: HEEP Center (HPCT) 101  
Credit Hours: 3

## Instructor Details

### Instructors:

Bart Fischer  
AgriLife Assistant Professor  
Co-Director, Agricultural and Food Policy Center  
Senior Advisor for Federal Relations, Office of the Vice Chancellor  
Office: AGLS 351  
Phone: 979-845-5913  
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. and by appointment

Joe L. Outlaw  
Regents Fellow, Professor and Extension Economist  
Co-Director, Agricultural and Food Policy Center  
Office: AGLS 351  
Phone: 979-845-5913  
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George Knapek  
Program Director, Agricultural and Food Policy Center  
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Office phone: 979-845-5913  
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Brian Herbst  
Research Associate, Agricultural and Food Policy Center  
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Office: AGLS 355  
Office phone: 979-845-3310  
Office hours: By appointment only

## Teaching Assistants:

All can help you, however, those listed in green should be your first choice. You will turn in your writing assignments to Micah Trull (in blue).

TA: Piper Merritt  
Office: AGLS 351  
Email: [pipermerritt@tamu.edu](mailto:pipermerritt@tamu.edu)  
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 2:00-4:00pm, and by appointment

TA: Micah Trull  
Office: AGLS 390  
Email: [mqtrull18@tamu.edu](mailto:mqtrull18@tamu.edu)  
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 9:00-10:30am, and by appointment

TA: Allison Wilton  
Office: AGLS 392  
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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 9:30-11:00am, and by appointment

TA: Harlea Hoelscher  
Office: AGLS 394  
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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 10:00-11:30am, and by appointment

TA: Macey Hammerstrom  
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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 10:00-11:30am, and by appointment

TA: Colton Russell  
Office: AGLS 382  
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Office Hours: Monday 2:00-3:00pm, Wednesday 1:00-3:00pm, and by appointment

TA: Catherine Machado  
Office: AGLS 392  
Email: [cmachado@tamu.edu](mailto:cmachado@tamu.edu)  
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 10:00-11:30am, and by appointment

**Email: Please, ALWAYS put “AGEC 429” on subject line of your e-mails to us.**

## 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.**

## Course Prerequisites

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

## Special Course Designation

This course is writing intensive (W). As such a W student must pass the writing components to earn a grade in the course.

Course Web Address: [www.afpc.tamu.edu/courses/](http://www.afpc.tamu.edu/courses/)

This website contains a copy of the syllabus and other relevant material.

## Course Learning Outcomes

The primary course learning outcome is to understand the factors that influence the U.S. policymaking process and the tools that have been used to support U.S. agriculture.

## Textbook and/or Resource Materials

Agriculture, Biofuels, and Food Policy: Policies, Politics, and Economics, Knutson and Outlaw. This book is currently in revision. Copies of the packet can be purchased at Barnes & Noble at the MSC and Textbook Solutions.

Students enrolled in the Honors section will be assigned additional reading materials to complete an additional in-depth writing assignment. [If permitted by the University](#), students in the honors section will also take a field trip to Washington D.C. during the semester. If not, other interaction with D.C. Ag Policy leaders will be arranged.

## Grading Policy

<b>Random Quizzes</b>	<b>4 x 10</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>40 Possible Points</b>
<b>Weekly Assignments</b>	<b>8 x 10</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>80 Possible Points</b>
<b>Writing Assignments</b>	<b>6 x 60</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>360 Possible Points</b>
<b>Exam I</b>	<b>1 x 100</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>100 Possible Points</b>
<b>Exam II</b>	<b>1 x 100</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>100 Possible Points</b>
<b>Exam III</b>	<b>1 x 100</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>100 Possible Points</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>1 x 100</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>100 Possible Points</b>

**880 Total Points**

## 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

*Note: Attendance is taken each day at 12:45 p.m in person. Although not required, attendance will assist us in dealing with borderline situations. Further, bonus points may be added to final total based on outstanding participation observed in class.*

## Late Work Policy

Students will be allowed to make-up a missed exam or quiz **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. <https://student-rules.tamu.edu>

## Course Schedule

### Tentative/Projected Exam Dates:

<b>Exam I</b>	<b>Tuesday, February 15th</b>
<b>Exam II</b>	<b>Thursday, March 24th</b>
<b>Exam III</b>	<b>Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 10:00am</b>

## Additional Course Information Items

### Examinations:

- Examinations will be a combination of True/False, multiple choice and short answer questions, along with economics and policy related graphs.
- Three exams and an optional comprehensive final exam will be given. Each exam will count for 100 points.
- Review sessions will be offered prior to the exams.

### Writing Instructions:

- Writing expectations and guidelines will be covered in class. Writing concepts and principles covered in AGE 217 will be further developed.
- The papers may vary in length but generally are 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.
- Students may be asked to 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.

### Attendance Policy

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

## Makeup Work Policy

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

"The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

## Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

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

"Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case" ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)).

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at [aggiehonor.tamu.edu](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu).

**Scholastic Honesty and Classroom Rules: Cheating 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.

## Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit [disability.tamu.edu](http://disability.tamu.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

## Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, you will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University’s goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University’s [Title IX webpage](#).

## Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student’s academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in proper self-care by utilizing the resources and services available from Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Students who need someone to talk to can call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org).