Agricultural Policy AGRI-5311
Fall Semester 2021

Dr. Leland C. Thompson
LThompson@SFASU.Edu
936-468-3705
Room 115 Agricultural Building
Office Hours: 10-11 and 1:30-3:30 Tue. & Thur.
Department of Agriculture
Lecture: Tuesday, 2:00 - 4:30 Rm. 115
Room 115, Ag. Building

542 Agricultural Policy. This course provides the guidelines for thinking about agricultural policy issues that have dominated farm and food policy, and emphasizes policy analysis rather than policy prescription.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. To develop a basic understanding of the history of U.S. agricultural policy including the alternative philosophies used to justify government involvement in agriculture over time.
2. To gain the broad appreciation of contemporary agricultural policy issues needed by professionals in a variety of agriculture-related occupations.
3. To apply economic principles to evaluate the impacts of alternative policy options.
4. To develop an understanding of the policy process itself, including the actors and arenas involved, especially as it applies to agricultural and food policy.
5. To gain experience in accessing a wide array of resources (especially online resources) pertaining to agricultural policy formation and analysis.

Program Learning Outcomes: M.S. Agriculture
1. The student will communicate an understanding of scientific discovery and the diffusion of information as it applies to the industry of agriculture.
2. The student will demonstrate competence in the major technical subject matter areas of their graduate program.
3. The student will exhibit problem solving skills based on quantitative and analytical reasoning.
4. The student will demonstrate effective communication skills. Students will demonstrate competence in both written and oral communications.
5. The student will exhibit leadership and other interpersonal skills needed for career placement and advancement.

M.S. Agriculture Program Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>PLO 1 Understanding the Agriculture Industry</th>
<th>PLO 2 Competence in subject matter</th>
<th>PLO 3 ProblemSolving Skills</th>
<th>PLO 4 Communications Skills</th>
<th>PLO 5 Leadership Skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AEC542</td>
<td>B-Basic</td>
<td>I-Intermediate</td>
<td>A-Advanced</td>
<td>M-Mastery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OVERVIEW
This course offers a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding agricultural and food policy in
the United States and the world. It draws on the theories and insights of economics, sociology,
political science, and history to examine the agricultural policy process and its outcomes. It
thereby helps students develop a better understanding of policy-making entities at various levels
of government in the United States. It also provides a broad understanding of how policy actions
in agriculture impact not only farmers’ incomes, but also the well being of consumers, the
economic viability of rural communities, and the quality of our nation’s environmental resources.

Agricultural and Food Policy, 6/E
Ronald D. Knutson
J.B. Penn
Barry L. Flinchbaugh,
Kansas State University
ISBN-10: 0131718738
Publisher: Prentice Hall, 2007

Course Requirement
1. Reading from the text
2. Policy paper presentations
3. Two exams

POLICY PAPER TOPICS

Over the course of the semester you will make two presentations focusing on policy issues,
policy actors, or various aspects of the policy process. Some likely general area topics for these
papers are listed below.

Price and Income Instability
Technology and Structural issues
Trade and international issues
Food safety and security
Environmental issues
Industrialization of agriculture
Politics
Risk management
PAPER PRESENTATIONS (2)

For each of your two presentations you will make an in-class (~10 minute) presentation. This presentation should be carefully organized to convey maximum information about your topic in this short time frame. These presentations are an important way of sharing information among the entire class. For each presentation, you must turn in a short, bulleted or numbered outline containing the main points to be covered in your presentation.

Policy Analysis Paper (related to presentation #2)

For the second presentation, you will select a specific agricultural policy or piece of legislation of interest to you. You are to submit a 4-5 page written overview of your presentation. In your paper you will carefully describe your chosen policy, including:

1. a description of the issue or situation the policy was designed to address,
2. the history of the process through which this policy came into being,
3. the goals and objectives of the policy,
4. the actors involved in the creation of the policy and the positions taken by them, the actual or likely impacts of the policy, and alternative policy actions that could address the same issue through other means (these alternatives may have actually been considered in the policy-making process, or they may be alternatives of your envisioning).

COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&amp;2</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Knutson, Chapter 1,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Policy Setting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Review of Economic Principles</td>
<td>Knutson, Chapter 2,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Policy Process and Government Actors</td>
<td>Knutson, Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Other Policy Actors—Interest Groups</td>
<td>Knutson, Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Domestic Agriculture Policy</td>
<td>Knutson, Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pearson - Agricultural and Food Policy, 6/E - Ronald D. Knutson, J.B. L. Penn & Barry L. Flinchbaugh

Grading Policy

Possible points for the course are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Pct. Of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (1)</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Papers (1)</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Presentations (2)</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion and Class Participation</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attendance and Exam Policy
1. Class Attendance
SFA AG DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY POLICY (reference university policy, 6.7)

Attendance and punctuality are core skills to have as an engaged student and for a successful career. Therefore, all agriculture faculty have adopted the following policy for unexcused absences.

- Miss one lecture OR lab period, no letter grade reduction
- Miss two lecture OR lab periods, drop one letter grade
- Miss three lecture OR lab periods, fail the course

For reference, below are examples of excused absences.
1.) Approved University activities (require documentation from sponsor and advanced notice)
2.) Death or major illness of an immediate family member (requires documentation and notice as soon as possible)
3.) Major illness of yourself (requires a doctor’s note).

Students missing classes, other than for university-sponsored trips, should contact the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) and request that an absence notification be sent to the instructor(s). The notification is not an excuse, and is not evaluated by OSRR. The notification is only provided as a courtesy to the student and the student’s instructor(s).

If you miss class for any other reason and feel your absence should be excused, you must provide me with a typed memo explaining why the absence should be excused and provide appropriate documentation. This memo must be provided within one week of the absence. All other absences are considered unexcused.

PUNCTUALITY POLICY
All Ag faculty take attendance at the beginning of their classes. Tardy attendance will be counted as unexcused absences at the discretion of the professor.

Mental Health
SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support student’s mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
E. Make-up exam policy: You will only be allowed to take make-up exams during dead week.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Plagiarism: to appropriate (literary materials, ideas, etc) and represent it as one’s own work

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Students proven to have cheated on assignments, quizzes and/or exams will fail the entire semester course.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

• Responsible Use of Technology: It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting,
listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties.

• **Classroom Behavior:** Disruptive, distracting, or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.

**Students with Disabilities**

— To obtain disability related accommodations and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Wisely Hall, Room 104, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as soon as possible. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)