

U.S. AGRICULTURAL POLICIES
AGEC 460 - SPRING 2020
School of Agriculture – Western Illinois University

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: 11 am to 12 pm on M, W, TH, and F, or
by appointment

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS:

AGEC 460 will meet on M, W, and F in Knoblauch 306 from 8:00-8:50 a.m.

EMAILS:

Please be sure to include the course in which you are enrolled in any emails.

TEXTBOOKS:

1. Recommended

- Agricultural and Food Policy 6/ed. Knutson, R.D., J.B. Penn, B.L. Flinchbaugh, and J.L. Outlaw. (2007). Prentice Hall, Pearson Education, Inc.
- Agri-Pulse weekly newsletter via WesternOnline.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

The goal of AGECE 460 is to develop:

1. An understanding of how public policies are formulated.
2. An appreciation for problems and opportunities facing the agricultural sector.
3. An analytical ability to objectively construct alternative solutions to policy issues and their probable consequences.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS:

Participation: Students are expected to regularly attend class and to actively participate in discussions.

Absences: If at any time you have a family emergency, funeral, or just not feeling well, please use the Online Absence Reporting System (OARS) system to report your absence (www.wiu.edu/oars). Please note that OARS system does not excuse your absence – it merely documents. It is still up to the instructor to excuse the absence. I will need the email generated from this system prior to class and not after. If I receive the email after class has started then the late grade policies come into effect. Excessive absences will result in failure of the course.

Academic Integrity: The rules and regulations outlined in the University's policy on academic integrity are applied to this course. See <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>. Any violation of the Academic Dishonesty Policy in Student Handbook will result in an automatic failure in the course.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Detailed information regarding student rights and responsibilities can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student/>. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the posted information.

Special Accommodations: If you need special accommodations, please feel free to stop by and discuss your needs or contact Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512 or disability@wiu.edu.

USE OF CELLULAR PHONES:

As a courtesy to other students and to the instructor, all cell phones should be turned off prior to class. Continued disregard of this policy may result in ejection from the course. If, due to medical or public safety concerns, a student

needs an exception to this policy he/she should inform the instructor prior to class. Cell phones are not be used under any circumstances on exams. **Texting** is not allowed during class and repeated violations may lead to dismissal from the course with an assigned grade of F.

USE OF LAPTOPS:

Also, as a courtesy to other students and to the instructor, laptops are not allowed in class. Lecture notes must be printed in advance. They will be available at WesternOnline. Continued disregard of this policy may result in ejection from the course.

TOBACCO POLICY:

Tobacco use of any kind will not be tolerated in class. This includes chewing tobacco.

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 20, Monday	Dr. Martin Luther King Day – No Class/ University Closed
February 12, Monday	Lincoln’s birthday – No Class/ University Closed
March 9-13, Monday-Friday	Spring Break – No Classes
March 29, Sunday	Last Day to Drop with a W
May 4, Monday	Final Exam: 8:00 – 9:50

GRADING POLICY:

The course grade will be based on the following factors, with weightings as indicated:

Exam I	15%	A = 93% or above	C = 73 - 76.99%
Exam II	15%	A- = 90 - 92.99%	C- = 70 - 72.99%
Comprehensive Final Exam	15%	B+ = 87 - 89.99%	D+ = 67 - 69.99%
Policy Paper & Presentation	25%	B = 83 - 86.99%	D = 63 - 66.99%
Quizzes	15%	B- = 80 - 82.99%	D- = 60 - 62.99%
Homework	15%	C+ = 77 - 79.99%	F = <60%
Total		100%	

Grade breaking points may be lowered, but in no case will they be raised. These breaking points will be evaluated only after final numerical grades have been calculated.

Attention Education Majors: The changes within the Illinois State Teaching License requirements, students are required to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet state requirements. With the university’s +/- grading system, receiving a grade below a "C-" will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet School of Agriculture graduation requirements.

HOMEWORK:

Homework will focus on understanding key concepts. I strongly encourage you to work on your own before checking your answers with your classmates. Homework are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will be penalized 20% and will not be accepted after they are discussed in class and/or posted on Western Online.

QUIZZES:

Ten-point quizzes on lectures, Agri-Pulse, readings, and other references – True/false and multiple choice. Quizzes are scheduled on Fridays (and other days, if necessary). There will be no makeups, no taking the quizzes early or coming to class late just to take quizzes. The lowest score quiz will be dropped. If a student has an official excused absence in writing (illness, judging team, etc.) reported before class has started, the total quiz score will be adjusted with no penalty. The instructor reserves the right to use both announced and unannounced quizzes.

POLICY PAPER AND PRESENTATION:

Individual policy paper: Please arrange to meet with the instructor in the second week of the course to select a topic. The paper must be submitted on April 17th by 11:59 p.m. via Dropbox, no exceptions. Papers must be at least 5 pages (not including the title page and the references section) and typed using Times New Roman, 12 point, doubled spaced and 1-inch margins all around.

Paper presentations: At the end of the semester, students will make a 20-minutes formal PowerPoint presentation to the class on the policy paper.

Further details about the paper and presentation will be provided in class.

EXAMS:

There will be 2 midterms and one final exam. Exams will consist of fill in the blank, multiple choice, short and long answer questions, and/or problem solving questions. **The final exam will be comprehensive** (same format as semester exams). Makeup exams will only be given in extreme situations.

GRADING DISAGREEMENTS:

If a student disagrees with a particular answer, it is the student's responsibility to provide a logical reason in writing as to the reason for their disagreement. This does not apply to scoring errors. All instructors are human and occasional errors in grading will occur. Please bring any such errors to the instructor's attention immediately.

ACCREDITATION:

The School of Agriculture is housed in the College of Business and Technology which is accredited by AACSB-International.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Start of week	Topic/ Material	Book chapter
Week 1	13-Jan-20	Forces of policy change	Chapter 1
Week 2	20-Jan-20	Rationale for government involvement in agriculture and food <i>Jan 20- Martin Luther King Jr. Day- No class</i>	Chapter 2
Week 3	27-Jan-20	The U.S. policy decision process	Chapter 3
Week 4	3-Feb-20	Geopolitical centers of influence	Chapter 4
Week 5	10-Feb-20	World Trade Organization <i>Feb 12- Lincoln's birthday- No class</i>	Chapter 5
Week 6	17-Feb-20	U.S. trade and development policy	Chapter 6
<i>Midterm I. 21-Feb-20</i>			
Week 7	24-Feb-20	U.S. farm policies	Chapter 7
Week 8	2-Mar-20	Living with limited resources	Chapter 8
<i>Week 9</i>	<i>9-Mar-20</i>	<i>Spring break- No classes/ University closed</i>	
Week 10	16-Mar-20	Environmental policy	Chapter 9
Week 11	23-Mar-20	Food safety and security policy	Chapter 10
Week 12	30-Mar-20	Food assistance and nutrition policy	Chapter 11
<i>Midterm II. 03-April-20</i>			
Week 13	6-Apr-20	Future of agricultural and food policy	Chapter 12
Week 14	13-Apr-20	Other policy issues	
Week 15	20-Apr-20	Other policy issues	
Week 16	27-Apr-20	Paper presentation	
Week 17	4-May-20	<i>Final Comprehensive Exam 4-May-2020 from 8:00 am to 9:50 am</i>	

NOTE: Please be advised that this syllabus is tentative. All classes are different and we may or may not be able to address all of the content areas or stick with the anticipated number of exams. Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.