

AEC 497 – INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Department of Agricultural Sciences
Spring 2014

Instructor: Dr. Jose Lopez

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Office Hours: For in-person consultation I will be available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 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, please send me an email and will schedule an appointment. Since this is an online class, you are also welcome to ask questions via email at any time. I will try to answers my emails within 24-48 hours. If you haven't heard back from me within 24-48 hours, you need to send me a follow up email.

Text: No textbook is required for this course.

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 agricultural trade issues, and policies with national and international scope that affect agricultural trade. The focus is on developing an understanding of the causes and consequences of trade, the various issues that result from trade, and how policies can affect agricultural trade.

General Objectives: To develop an understanding of the causes and consequences of trade. To discuss issues related to international agricultural trade. To discuss policies that affect agricultural trade.

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

- Understand several concepts and terminology associated with agricultural trade.
- Discuss policy issues from a national and international perspective.
- Describe the role of country in international trade.
- Identify and understand some agricultural policies that affect international trade.

- Recognize national and international agencies and organizations involved in agricultural trade.
- Learn approaches that can be used to analyze agricultural trade.
- Understand research on food and agricultural trade.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems)

Topics:

- Instability, Globalization, Technology, Food Safety, Environment, Industrialization, and Politics.
- Government Involvement in Agricultural Trade.
- Preferential agreements
 - NAFTA, MERCOSUR, EU, Japan, China, Russia, and Developing Countries
- World Trade Organization
 - Benefits, Barriers, and Evolution
- 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
- European Agriculture
- Competitiveness in the Global Food Economy
- International Marketing: Analyzing Opportunities
- International Marketing: Developing an International Strategy

Technology Requirements

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word or Word Perfect)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

Access and Navigation: This course will be facilitated using eCollege. To get started with the course, go to: <https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=welcome>. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course.

If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Communication and Support: Interaction with Instructor Statement: Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me any time. Email is the best way to contact me.

Office hours are by appointment only. Should you need to meet with me for any reason, a time and place will be determined.

Grading:

Exam 1	23.33%
Exam 2	23.33%
Final Exam	23.33%
Quizzes/Assignments/Exercises	30.00%
	100.00%

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.

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 online via eCollege (<http://www.online.tamuc.org/>).

Important Dates:

January 13 th , Monday	First day of classes.
January 29 th , Wednesday	Last day to drop a 16 week course with 100% refund and no grade.
March 25 th , Tuesday	Last day to drop a 16 week course with no refund and a Q grade.
May 2 nd , Friday	Last day of classes.
May 5-9	Final Exams

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