



AEC 435.01W: Agricultural Policy

COURSE SYLLABUS

Fall 2018

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Rafael Bakhtavoryan

Office Location: Agricultural Science Building, Room 154

Office Hours: Wednesdays at 2:00p.m.-3:00p.m., and Tuesdays & Thursdays at 12:30p.m.-2:30p.m., or by appointment

Office Phone: (903) 886-5367

Office Fax: (903) 886-5990

University Email Address: Rafael.Bakhtavoryan@tamuc.edu (please, use only this email address and put "AEC 435" in the subject of the email)

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within an hour during business hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Class Meeting: Web-based

Readings

Required: PowerPoint Presentations: These will be provided on D2L.

Recommended Textbook: *Agricultural and Food Policy* by R.D. Knutson, JB Penn, B.L. Flinchbaugh, and J.L. Outlaw. Pearson Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 6th edition, 2007, (ISBN: 0131718738).

Course Description

Analytical treatment of historical, recent and current economic problems, and governmental policies influencing American agriculture and rural America. The focus is on developing a historical and conceptual understanding of the economics of agriculture and how public policy has and does influence the nature and performance of American agriculture.

Lecture Topics

Chapter 1: Forces of Policy Change

Chapter 2: Rationale for Government Involvement in Agriculture and Food

Chapter 3: The U.S. Policy Decision Process

Chapter 4: Geopolitical Centers of Influence

Chapter 5: World Trade Organization

Chapter 6: U.S. Trade and Development Policy

Chapter 7: U.S. Farm Policies

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

After studying all materials and resources presented in this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the concepts and terminology related to agricultural, food, and trade policies.
2. Understand the process of developing and implementing U.S. agricultural policy.
3. Analyze U.S. agricultural, food, and trade policies and their implications for agricultural markets.
4. Develop students' ability to think critically about the need for farm policies and policy reforms.
5. Improve students' written communication skills, enabling them to work effectively in an agribusiness environment.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems). Assessed with a policy paper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students are expected to know how to use the learning management system (D2L will be used heavily in this class), Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Read the assigned PowerPoint presentations.
2. Complete and turn in course assignments and exams at the scheduled time.
3. Use the web to actively seek out other agricultural policy sources that fit your learning style and help you better understand the material.

GRADING

Your grade for the semester will be a weighted average of homework assignments, agricultural or food policy paper, and three exams.

Homework Assignments	10%
Policy paper	15%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Final Exam	25%
TOTAL	100%

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89.99%

C = 70%-79.99%

D = 60%-69.99%

F = 59.99% or below

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Assessments

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (HAs): Homework assignments are assigned regularly (see the course outline at the end of the syllabus) and must be completed individually. As a form of experiential learning, HAs help students sharpen their analytical skills. Students must turn in their HAs in Microsoft Word format (or at least in pdf format, although the Word format is preferred) via D2L according to the course outline. HAs must be submitted by 11:30 p.m. on the due date. No late HAs will be accepted and a grade of zero will be assessed for missed HAs.

POLICY PAPER: All students are required to write an individual policy paper. Please make sure to select a topic at least the second week into the semester by emailing it to me. See the course outline for the due date of the policy paper. Students are encouraged to submit completed papers in advance. Papers must be submitted electronically via D2L in Microsoft Word format. Guidelines for writing the policy paper will be provided throughout the semester.

Possible policy paper topics:

U.S. corn policy; U.S. wheat policy; U.S. soybean policy; U.S. sorghum policy; U.S. oats policy; U.S. cotton policy; U.S. rice policy; U.S. ethanol policy; U.S. dairy policy; U.S. tobacco policy; U.S. peanut policy; U.S. shrimp policy; U.S. honey policy; U.S. fruits and vegetables policy; U.S. food safety and security policy; U.S. food assistance and nutrition policy.

EXAMS: Exams will be administered through D2L (see the course outline at the end of the syllabus for specific exam dates). Exams must be completed by 11:30 p.m. on the due date. Exams will be timed and you will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete them. Make sure you have internet access ahead of time and that your laptop battery is fully charged. No make-up exams will be given. If an exam is missed a grade of zero will be assessed for it. Exams must be completed individually using your own student account and there should be no collaboration or sharing of work with your classmates on the exams. Final exam is NOT comprehensive and you will have 2 hours to complete it.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

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Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version)

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Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
			and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
 - You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
 - Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
 - Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.
Pop-ups are allowed.
JavaScript is enabled.
Cookies are enabled.

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- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
 - [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.



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System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The instructor's communication response is stated clearly (see page 1).

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

No late assignments will be accepted and a grade of zero will be assessed for them.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

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 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE

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Fall 2018

WEB-BASED

Weeks	Topic/All assignments are due on specific dates listed below by 11:30 p.m. For example, homework assignment 1 is due Sep 9 by 11:30 p.m., or homework assignment 2 is due Sep 16 by 11:30 p.m., or EXAM 1 is due Sep 30 by 11:30 p.m.
Week 1 Aug 27 – Sep 2	Syllabus & D2L Tutorial
Week 2 Sep 3 – Sep 9	Chapter 1: Forces of Policy Change, Homework Assignment 1, Email me your policy paper topic
Week 3 Sep 10 – Sep 16	Chapter 2: Rationale for Government Involvement in Agriculture and Food, Homework Assignment 2
Week 4 Sep 17 – Sep 23	Chapter 3: The U.S. Policy Decision Process, Homework Assignment 3
Week 5 Sep 24 – Sep 30	EXAM 1. Chapters 1, 2, 3
Week 6 Oct 1 – Oct 7	Chapter 4: Geopolitical Centers of Influence, Homework Assignment 4
Week 7 Oct 8 – Oct 14	Chapter 5: World Trade Organization, Homework Assignment 5
Week 8 Oct 15 – Oct 21	Chapter 6: U.S. Trade and Development Policy, Homework Assignment 6

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Week 9 Oct 22 – Oct 28	EXAM 2. Chapters 4, 5, 6
Week 10 Oct 29 – Nov 4	Chapter 7: U.S. Farm Policies, Homework Assignment 7_1
Week 11 Nov 5 – Nov 11	Chapter 7: U.S. Farm Policies, Homework Assignment 7_2
Week 12 Nov 12 – Nov 18	Chapter 7: U.S. Farm Policies, Homework Assignment 7_3
Week 13 Nov 19 – Nov 25	THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)
Week 14 Nov 26 – Dec 2	Policy Paper Submissions via D2L
Week 15 Dec 3 – Dec 9	FINAL EXAM. Chapter 7

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