

**AG 392 - Global Applied Ethics: U.S. & World Agriculture
Fall 2019**

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Office Info: AGET 146

Class: AG 392.01W online (CRN: 84051)

Office Hours:

The following office hours are the official times that I will be available for drop-in student consultation. I have an open door policy when possible and will try to assist students any time that I am available. However, occasionally the demands of class preparation, my role at the university, and service prohibit immediate drop-in service. You are welcome to email me to arrange a meeting time.

Monday-Thursday 9:30am to 12:00pm and/or by appointment.

COURSE INFORMATION

Class Location: online

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

None Required

Material will come from a variety of sources including scientific and professional journals, publications from governmental agencies, information from agricultural organizations, and guest presenters.

Course Description: (as in catalog) This course examines major, contemporary issues in agriculture and food policy with emphasis on the ethical aspects of each issue. Discussion focuses on assessing the particular economic, cultural, geographic, political, religious, technological and scientific principles with a moral and ethical framework. Course scope is approximately half U.S. domestic issues and half international issues. Prerequisite: Junior standing. etc.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate *knowledge* of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems) in context of food production, processing, distribution, and consumption.
2. *apply* knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics as evidenced through course related activities and assignments.
3. view themselves as *engaged* citizens within an interconnected and diverse world as reflected in the final *Issues in Retrospect* essay.
- 4.

The following instructional objectives will guide course content to achieve these outcomes.

1. Recognize historical and contemporary issues of ethical concern in agriculture and food systems as well as in renewable resource utilization and conservation.
2. Identify, analyze, and utilize various sources/types of information and:

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- a. Discuss relevance to her/his profession.
 - b. Distinguish between facts, values, and beliefs.
 - c. Determine the credibility of the source.
 - d. Recognize limitations of the information.
3. Evaluate the *pros (advantages)* and *cons (disadvantages)* of contemporary issues in food, agriculture, and renewable natural resources.
 4. Present contrasting viewpoints in a civil and effective manner.
 5. Compose informative and persuasive essays on controversial topics.
 6. Collaborate with team members of varied backgrounds, beliefs, and values
 7. Develop and deliver an informative or persuasive speech on an issue relevant to agriculture, food, and/or renewable natural resources.
 8. Participate in the *peer review* assessment process.
 9. Engage in public debate and discussion in a civil manner.
 10. Identify sources of influence in the development of regulations and policies affecting the production, distribution, and management of food, agriculture, and natural resources systems.

COURSE POLICIES AND INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS

Students are required to meet the expectations listed below.

- **Professional Behavior:** It is important that you maintain a professional demeanor at all times, both during live class sessions and “electronic communication.” Texas A&M University-Commerce expects this from you, as do current and future employers. This course will be a good place to practice interacting in a manner appropriate to a professional setting. Participation in class discussion and instructional activities should follow the basic principles of common courtesy and decency. Rude and disruptive behavior, as well as cheating, in any form, will not be tolerated. The use of tobacco products in the classroom, laboratory, or field trip sites is strictly prohibited. Use of intoxicants before class is strictly prohibited and will result in your immediate removal from class. Inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with instructor’s guidelines may result in suspension from class for the remainder of the day’s instruction. Repeat offenses may result in additional consequences.
- **Class Attendance Policy:** Attendance is required for AG 392 and roll will be taken each week via discussion participation. Missing class can affect your grade. Attendance is expected. Three unexcused absences and the student will receive a grade of “F.” Absences will be considered excused if the instructor is 1) notified in advance and is approved PRIOR to class, and 2) the absence is related to a severe illness, participating in a university sanctioned event, death of an immediate family member, or other absences as approved by the instructor. Students who miss class that is unexcused will NOT be given a makeup grade.
- **Assignments:**
 1. **Submitted assignments must be correctly formatted and free of grammatical and stylistic errors.** Students in AG 392 should have at least some skill with software for word processing, spreadsheets, databases, graphics, presentations, and with web browsers and search engines. Spelling and grammatical errors will detract from your grade!
 2. **Assignments must be turned in on time.** Assignments are due at the **date and time** (the beginning of class) listed. All work and assignments for the entire course will be available on the first day of class. Start working on each assignment as soon as you possibly can and make sure that you have all the assignments submitted by the specified due dates. You **MUST** turn in all written assignments **ON TIME**. You will have until **the start of class (5:00 PM)** to submit the work that is listed in the far right, “Assignments/Guest Speaker” column of the course schedule provided. I will not accept late assignments. There will be no extra credit work available.
 3. **Assignments must be complete.** You must complete and submit all components at the specified due date and time to receive credit for the assignment. Please do not turn in work that is only “half-finished” as this will reflect a grade respective of what was submitted.

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4. Written assignments must be submitted in a format that is compatible with Microsoft Word, if submitting electronically.

- **Back-ups Are Required:** You are required to back up all your assignments on a USB Drive that can be submitted to me upon my request. If work is lost due to insufficient back-up, you will not have the opportunity to recreate and submit at a later time.
- **E-mail:** Students must routinely check e-mail sent to his or her **Texas A&M University-Commerce account**. This is my primary mechanism for communicating outside of class. I check my e-mail several times a day, so this is the best way to reach me. Maggie.Salem@tamuc.edu
- **Make-up Exams or Late Assignments:** Will only be accepted if you obtain university approved documentation for your excuse. There are no make-up assignments for poor performance on a previous assignment. No late assignments will be accepted.
- **Changes to Schedule:** While I plan to stick to the class schedule, there might be occasions to modify the schedule. In these cases, all changes will be announced in class and e-mail. It is your responsibility to become aware of any such changes.

EXPECTATION OF STUDENTS

- Actively participates in all assignments.
- Actively participates in class discussions.
- Plagiarism is not tolerated.
- Respect and civility to each other is expected.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be a variety of assignments given throughout the semester. There will be discussion. You are expected to participate in the discussion.

Course Assignments and Grading

D2L Discussions (200 Points)

Persuasive One-Page Papers (2 @ 100 Points Each) Ag Networking Night (200 points)*¹

Students will write and submit four (2) typed Persuasive One-Page (*minimum*) papers. Students can select their own topics but must be related to Agricultural global or domestic ethics issues. It is the student's responsibility to convey their own view backed by research. At minimum one reference should be used.

Using "*What Makes a Good One-Page Persuasive Essay: 5 Essential Tips*" will assist you in formulating your thoughts and writing your papers.

<http://www.essaytutorials.net/simple-strategy-for-creating-a-one-page-persuasive-essay/>

Prepared note-card speech (3 minutes) over student selected topic (200 points)²

Each student will develop a 5-minute speech on an instructor-approved topic. The student may use the rules for *Texas FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking* or *Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) Persuasive or Informative Speaking* guidelines as a suggested format.

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Position research brief over team presentation topic (*Global artifact*) (100 points)*³

Team poster presentation over *agricultural or food issue* (200 points)*⁴

Students will be organized into teams of 4 by a random selection process. Teams will choose a topic from a pre-determined set of issues relevant to the course. Each team member will conduct background research on the topic and prepare a 3-5 page *Position Research Brief* (term paper). This will serve as your *global artifact* for QEP purposes.

Each team member's brief will be used to collectively create a poster presentation that presents the *pros* (advantages) and *cons* (disadvantages) of the issue.

***Issues in Retrospect Essay (Final Exam)* (100 points)⁵**

Each student will compose an essay that synthesizes the key elements of issues discussed, facts presented, and opinions shared during the course. The professor will provide 5-6 prompts from which the student will respond to 4. At least one of the four prompts will focus on a global issue. Essays will follow formatting outlined below for written assignments.

***Written Assignments**

The Research Brief, presentation, and Persuasive One-page essays should be written in a format aligned with the *American Psychological Association (APA) Manual for Publication*, 6th edition. Exemptions to APA formatting will be specified when appropriate. A tutorial on scientific writing, including the use of APA format is available from the Online Writing Lab at Purdue University (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>). Personal face-to-face assistance with editing and format suggestions is available from the A&M Commerce on-campus Writing Center. APA will be used for punctuation, writing style, headings, and citations.

- A >900
- B 800 – 899
- C 700 – 799
- D 600 – 699
- F <599

There will be no extra credit work available. No late assignments will be accepted.

Course Calendar:

Week of August 26, 2019 – Syllabus and class expectations

Week of September 2, 2019 – What is Agricultural Ethics? Why is it important? Agricultural Ethics - Topics

Week of September 9, 2019 – Farm Structure

Week of September 16, 2019 – Food Safety and GMO's and **Persuasive One-Page Paper #1 Due¹**

Week of September 23, 2019 – Food Security

*Week of September 30, 2019 – Career and Internship Fair (*attendance required*) 1pm to 3pm RSC Conference Room

Week of October 7, 2019 – **Persuasive One-Page Paper #2 Due¹**

Week of October 14, 2019 – International Trade

Week of October 21, 2019 – Environmental Impacts

Week of October 28, 2019 – **Prepared Informative or Persuasive Speeches²**

Week of November 4, 2019 – Agricultural Biotechnology

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*Week of November 11, 2019 – Ag Networking Night (*attendance required*) 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm RSC Conference Rooms and **Position Research Brief Due**³
Week of November 18, 2019 – Animal Ethics
Week of November 25, 2019 – Research Ethics
Week of December 2, 2019 – **Team Poster Presentations Due**⁴
Week of December 9, 2019 – **Issues in Retrospect Essay (Final Exam)**⁵

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

To be successful in the course, you will need the following items:

- Reliable Internet Access
- MS Word 2007 or newer
- Flash drive recommended when using computers on campus

UNIVERSITY PROCEDURE/POLICIES

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/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

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>

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

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.

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

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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.

References:

The following web sites will be useful references.

AgHires

<https://ag hires.com/>

AgCareers

<https://www.agcareers.com/>

National FFA Organization

www.ffa.org

Texas FFA

www.texasffa.org

Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas

<http://www.vatat.org>

National 4-H Headquarters (USDA-CSREES)

<http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/>

National 4-H Council

<http://www.fourhcouncil.edu/>

Texas 4-H Web Page

<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>

National FCCLA

<http://www.fcclainc.org/>

Texas FCCLA

<http://www.texasfccla.org/>

Judging Card

www.judgingcard.com

Educational Excellence for AFNR Teachers***

<http://www.txeducationalexcellence.com/>

Relevant Online Research Journals

Journal of Extension

<http://www.joe.org/>

Journal of Agricultural Education

<http://jae-online.org/>

Journal of Southern Agricultural Education Research

<http://www.jsaer.org/>

Texas Journal of Agriculture and Natural Resources

<http://www.tarleton.edu/Departments/txjanr/OnLineJrnl.html>

Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences Education

<http://www.natefacs.org/JFCSE/jfcse.html>

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