



**EAST TEXAS A&M**  
UNIVERSITY

**ALEC 535- Leading and Communicating Contemporary Issues in Agriculture**

**Instructor:** Maggie R.P. Salem, Ed.D.  
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**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 9:00am to 2:00pm and/or by appointment.

**Course Meeting Time and Location**

Online/D2L

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

No textbook is required for this course. The instructor will provide supplementary readings and materials throughout the course. 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 is an evaluation of current issues pertaining to leadership in agriculture including a historical look at leadership and its impact on producers and consumers. Content and teaching will promote understanding of the agricultural industry with a focus on advocacy, written, online, and oral communications.

*The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester, if needed. The instructor also reserves the right to extend credit for alternative assignments, projects, or presentations.*

## Course Assignments and Grading

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Activities &amp; Assignments</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Point Value and Grading Scale</b>
Week 1	Change My Mind Discussion	Students will complete a Discussion introducing themselves to their course peers via a tailored discussion.	10 Points
Week 1	Contemporary Issues in Ag Discussion	Students will define, identify and discuss contemporary agricultural issues via discussion.	10 points
Week 1	Ag Policy Narrative/Discussion	Students will develop a narrative on the historical impacts of ag policy in the United States.	100 points
Week 2	CAST Paper Narrative/Discussion	Students will develop a narrative on a selected topic related to presented materials.	100 points
Week 3	Mini-PD Topic	Students will select a Mini-PD topic.	10 points
Week 3	Mini-PD Topic Handouts	Students will create associated and relevant handouts to accompany Mini-PD presentations.	100 points
Week 3	Mini-PD Presentation	Students will create Mini-PD presentations.	200 points
Week 3	Mini-PD Peer Critique	Students will review and analyze their course peers' Mini-PD presentations.	100 points
Final Grade			<b>Points Earned/630=Your Grade (don't panic...move the decimal)</b> <b>A=90-100%</b> <b>B=80-89%</b> <b>C=70-79%</b> <b>D=60-69%</b> <b>F=59% and below</b>

### \*Written Assignments

The essay should be written in a format aligned with the *American Psychological Association (APA) Manual for Publication*, 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

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