

Course Description: 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.

Textbook

There is no specific textbook for this 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. Other documents/handouts will be provided through your university D2L account.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

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

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:
 - 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.

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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.

Grade Determination:

	<i>Possible Points</i>
Class attendance and participation in class discussion and online activities	100
Report on student selected/instructor approved activity	100
Prepared note-card speech (2 minutes) over student selected topic	100
Position research brief over team presentation topic (<i>Global artifact</i>)	100
Team presentation over instructor assigned <i>agricultural or food issue</i>	100
Engagement/Assistance, & Reflection over CDEs (Service Event)	100
Final Exam or <i>Issues in Retrospect</i> Essay	100

$$\text{Your Grade (\%)} = \frac{\text{Points Earned}}{700} \times 100$$

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = below 60%

Class Attendance and Participation in Discussions

Students are expected to discuss experiences and observations, as well as ask questions. Being in attendance is only part of the learning process. By discussing issues and asking questions, you will reinforce learning through a multi-sensory approach. Your attendance and *effective listening* are also necessary for participation in the *peer review* of the team presentations and individual speeches. Some discussions may be online. Additionally, there will be a **Facebook group page** for this class where news clippings may be shared for further discussion. **Send a request to join AG 392 Applied Ethics...**

Prepared Informative or Persuasive Speech

Each student will develop a 2-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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Research Brief

Students will be organized into teams of 4 by a random selection process. Teams will draw for 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.

Team Presentations

Each team member's brief will be used to collectively create an *issue poster presentation* that presents the *pros* (advantages) and *cons* (disadvantages) of the issue. Presentations will be conducted for peer/instructor/audience review at a date and time TBD.

Report over Engagement/Assistance, & Reflection over CDEs (Service Event)

Each student is expected to engage or assist with events hosted by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) during this semester. Please note that one of these events is the annual Area V & VI FFA Career Development Event which will be held on **Tuesday, April 21**. Your engagement or assistance that day is required as service-learning component of this course. Your report will consist of a *selfie* of your engagement at the CDE along with a 1-2 sentence explanation about what your duties were or what you learned. This should be posted to the Facebook course page.

Issues in Retrospect Essay (in lieu of final exam)

Each student will compose an *in-class* 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 be hand-written in a *Blue Book* during the last regular class meeting. At the professor's discretion, he may choose to use a traditional objective final exam.

Written Assignments and Format

The Research Brief, presentation, and essays should be written in a format compatible with the *American Psychological Association (APA) Manual for Publication*, 6th or latest edition. A synopsis and 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 on-campus Writing Center at TAMU-Commerce.

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Syllabus Addendum for Dr. Bob Williams for the Spring 2020 Semester

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are available for student conferences with the professor for additional course support and, if applicable, academic/career advisement. The following hours will be maintained for this purpose, provided they are not circumvented by administrative assigned tasks beyond the professors control, professional travel to conferences or meetings, or medical appoints for professor or his household dependents.

Monday	9:00-10:00 a.m.
Tuesday	9:30-10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	9:00-10:00 a.m. AND 3:30-4:45 p.m.
Thursday	9:30-10:30 a.m. or by appointment
Friday	by appointment only

ENGAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE WITH CASNR EVENTS

Each student is expected to engage or assist with events hosted by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) during this semester. These may include courses where you have to miss a scheduled class other than this one. If that occurs, the Dean of CASNR will approve the event in which you engaged or assisted as appropriate and relevant to the overall goals of your education as a student enrolled in a CASNR course and therefore, that absence will be excused. Such events are expected to have prior approval from the Dean or the Dean's designee. **Please note that one of these events is the annual Area V & VI FFA Career Development Event which will be held on Tuesday, April 21. Your engagement or assistance that day is required as part of the requirements for this course.**

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The electronic gradebook on D2L will be used in this course. 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.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace [D2L] , 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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

The professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester, if needed. The professor also reserves the right to extend credit for alternative assignments, projects, or presentations. Some elements of grading may be delegated to a teaching assistant for this course.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The professor and GAs or SIs will be accessible to students via email as well as the professor will have specific office hours and times when students may schedule an appointment. Email is the most effective form of correspondence with the professor. Do not attempt to text, Skype, or Facetime the professor. Response to emails, except for the weekends or during times which the professor may be in remote area conducting research, will normally occur within 24 hours or receipt of the original message.

The professor will usually be available in the university cafeteria for informal conversation and breakfast (you buy your own) on Fridays between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. This is a good chance to get to know the professor and allow him to know more about you.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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/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>

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>

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](#)

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<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: Sandi.Patton@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<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.

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.

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