

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

COURSE INFORMATION:

Course ID: AGBU 4386.01
Course Title: Agriculture and Food Policy
Semester/Year: Fall, 2017
Credit Hours: 3 hour upper-division course
Location: PIRK 210A
Time: MW 11:00 am-12:20 pm

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

Instructor: Foy D. Mills, Jr., Ph.D.
Professor and Program Leader- Agribusiness
Strengths: Responsibility * Strategic * Maximizer * Analytical * Relator
Office: PIRK 440H
Office Hours: TR 2:30-5:00 pm or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines and analyzes the effects of government participation on farmers, ranchers, agribusiness firms and consumers. Topics include the policy making process and the analysis of commodities, conservation, food safety, international trade, rural development programs, and the interrelationship of agriculture and agribusiness. Prerequisite: AGBU 2317 and 75 credit hours completed. Writing enhanced.

COURSE GOAL:

To establish the foundational principles and conceptual framework encouraging productive discussions with other segments of society pressing for changes in agricultural policy, in its broadest sense.

COURSE COMPETENCIES AND EVALUATION METHODS:

- 1) Awareness of global food inequities and societal desires to correct them, including trade.
- 2) Analyze the historical progression of US agricultural policy including major legislation and organizational development.
- 3) Demonstrate the use of economic principles to make informed decisions and recommendations about agricultural policy and programs in a political environment.

Evaluation of these competencies is accomplished by extensive reading, reflective writing assignments, analysis/evaluation assignments and a policy paper.

CLASS FORMAT:

The course meets two days per week (one hour and twenty minutes each period) for a total of three hours of classroom instruction. Class sessions are highly interactive with the instructor serving as discussion facilitator.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Presence- the fact or condition of being present (www.merriam-webster.com). I make a commitment that on MW 11:00 am-12:20 pm this semester, unless I am away on SHSU approved travel, ill or dealing with a family emergency, when I walk into PIRK 210A, I will be present in mind, body and spirit out of respect for you. I ask the same of you. I expect us to hold each other accountable out of respect for each other's investment in this class. Let's be present!

- 1) Regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student in the Department.
- 2) Each faculty member will keep a written record of student attendance. (It is your responsibility to record your attendance on the roll sheet as you enter class each session. Any absence, whether excused or unexcused is recorded. The only difference between the two is that you have the opportunity to make-up work missed if the absence is excused.)
- 3) If a student misses four or more classes, the student's grade will be reduced by one letter grade. Additional penalties may be assessed at the discretion of the instructor. (In this class, on your seventh absence, regardless if your absences are excused or unexcused, your course grade will be reduced one letter grade.)
- 4) Three unexcused or unjustified tardies or early departures are considered as one absence.
- 5) Excused absences must be documented by the student with a letter of confirmation from the sponsoring student organization, professor or doctor. Exemptions will include participation in departmental activities when prior approval is obtained from the Department Chair.
- 6) No exams or assignments will be given at alternative times unless arrangements are made with the professor/instructor before the scheduled activity occurs.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see [Dean of Students' Office](#).

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:

You are young adults and emerging young professionals. I expect you to act accordingly and I believe you will. However, if you choose to practice inappropriate behavior in the classroom (e.g., making offensive remarks, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing), I will ask you to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. Student guidelines are found at <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/>

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular phones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. If I find you using your phone (e.g., texting) during class, I will ask you to take your phone to the faculty desk at the front of the classroom and deposit it there. You may retrieve it as you leave the classroom.

Additionally, telephones and text messaging systems (and similar) are prohibited during tests, and if visible will result in a zero (0) grade for that test. Therefore, you will not be able to use your phone as a calculator. Plan accordingly.

The only exception to the telephone expectations noted above is if you are dealing with an urgent situation or a potential emergency. You must notify me of the situation in advance and I must approve the exception. If the exception is granted, please dismiss yourself from the classroom if you need to receive an incoming call or to make a call.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability/>.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day shall be permitted to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor with a written statement describing the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams and/or assignments.

USE OF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS:

In order to promote a healthy, safe, and aesthetically pleasing work, educational, and living environment, Sam Houston State University (SHSU) will endorse a smoke free and tobacco free environment. The primary purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines prohibiting smoking

and the use of all tobacco products. Tobacco products include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, and all other tobacco products. This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, employees of contractors, and visitors of Sam Houston State University on the premises of the university.

MISCELLANEOUS COURSE POLICIES:

- Assignments completed outside of class must be deposited in Blackboard (Bb) before the date and time detailed in the syllabus (noted also in Bb instructions).
- Assignments are not accepted late and no extra credit assignments are provided.
- All work is word-processed in font Times New Roman, font size 12, one inch margins top-bottom-sides, unless it is done in class.
- Use the Chicago Manual of Style, 16th ed. to cite sources (embedded in Citations & Bibliography in the most recent versions of Microsoft Word).
- Headgear (e.g., caps, hats, hoods) is to be removed by men and women upon entering class unless it is in observance of your religious faith.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT:

All materials (e.g., handouts, texts, problem sets) used in this course are under copyright and may not be sold, rented or otherwise transferred for any compensation, including taking notes for others or providing to businesses that sell tutoring or other grade-enhancing services without written permission from me or from other copyright owners.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Response question ¹ (8 at 20 points each)	160
Reflection ² (8 at 10 points each)	80
Policy paper ³	<u>100</u>
	340 points

COURSE GRADE:

A ≥ 306 points	B = 305-272 points	C = 271-238 points
D = 237-204 points	F < 203 points	

¹ A response question is asked at the beginning of designated class periods over reading assignments. You are expected to provide a brief written reply to a question designed to assess understanding of the overall idea/concept related in the article. Therefore, you are responsible for a major portion of this course. Your reading material provides the basis for our class discussion. It is imperative you read the material. Ten response questions will be administered. Two of the ten responses will be dropped for a total of eight response questions graded.

² Reflections are completed outside of class and are submitted to Bb. I ask you to reflect on a topic after viewing a video(s) or after interacting with a guest speaker. Ten reflections will be written excluding the final reflection piece. Two of the ten will be dropped for a total of eight reflection papers graded, again excluding the final.

³ The policy paper is on a topic from the course material of your choosing. I ask that you identify the topic (more narrowly defined the better) in an introductory statement followed by a brief objective history (i.e, synopsis) of the topic or issue. Then carefully outline the opposing views with supportive evidence, the view you support and why you support this position. A final summary paragraph is expected. This paper must be 1500-1750 words in length excluding word-count on the literature cited page. A **minimum of five high quality peer-reviewed sources** are required with proper citations using the Chicago Manual of Style, 16th ed (Knutson 2007) (Knutson 2007). Internal citations in the narrative must be documented using the Harvard style. Failure to include a literature cited page and/or internal citations will result in a grade of zero (0). If you do not meet the minimum number of peer-reviewed sources expected, the highest grade you can earn on the paper is a "C".

TEXT (REQUIRED):

- 1) Knutson, Ronald D., J.B. Penn, Barry L. Flinchbaugh and Joe L. Outlaw. 2007. *Agricultural and Food Policy*, 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Online Readings (Required):

- 2) American Studies at the University of Virginia. Read “The Yoeman.” Also read “Agrarian Philosophy” and “Thomas Jefferson” (the latter two are internal links within “The Yoeman” article). <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/HNS/Yoeman/yman3.html> accessed August 17, 2017
- 3) Effland, Anne B. W. 2000. “US Farm Policy: The First 200 Years.” *Agricultural Outlook*. Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture. (March):21-25, http://www.iatp.org/files/US_Farm_Policy_The_First_200_Years.htm accessed August 17, 2017
- 4) United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization. 2017. The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2016. New York. <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/2016/en/> (Read SOFA in Brief which is accessed via internal hyperlink on the page taking you to a pdf) accessed August 17, 2017
- 5) LEVIN Institute. 2015. *What is Globalization?* The State University of New York, Globalization 101. <http://www.globalization101.org/what-is-globalization/> accessed August 17, 2017
- 6) Globalization. <https://www.dallasfed.org/educate/everyday> accessed August 17, 2017
- 7) Formaini, Robert L. 2004. “David Ricardo- Theory of Free International Trade.” *Economic Insights*, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 9(2), <http://www.dallasfed.org/research/ei> (Click on the pdf with this title) accessed August 17, 2017
- 8) Zahniser, Steven, Sahar Angadjivand and Thomas Hertz. 2015. “NAFTA at 20: With Regional Trade Liberalization Complete, Focus Shifts to Other Methods of Deepening Economic Integration.” Washington DC: US Department of Agriculture, *Amber Waves*, Econ. Res. Serv. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2015/april/nafta-at-20-with-regional-trade-liberalization-complete-focus-shifts-to-other-methods-of-deepening-economic-integration/> accessed August 17, 2017
- 9) US Department of Agriculture. 2016. *Free Trade Agreements and US Agriculture*. Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture, International Agricultural Trade Reports. https://www.fas.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2016-06/2016-06_iatr_ftas.pdf accessed August 17, 2017
- 10) Lee, Dwight R. “Economic Protectionism.” *Economic Insights*, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 6(2), <http://www.dallasfed.org/assets/documents/research/ei/ei0102.pdf> accessed August 17, 2017
- 11) Zulauf, Carl and David Orden. 2016. “80 Years of Farm Bills-Evolutionary Reform.” *Choices*, 31(4):1-7. <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/looking-ahead-to-the-next-farm-bill/80-years-of-farm-billsevolutionary-reform> accessed August 17, 2017
- 12) US Department of Agriculture. 2016. *US Farm Policy and Policy Process*. Economic Research Service, Washington DC, May 11, 2016. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-commodity-policy/us-farm-policy-and-policy-process.aspx> accessed August 17, 2017
- 13) US Department of Agriculture. 2016. *Agricultural Act of 2014: Highlights and Implications*. Economic Research Service, Washington DC, May 11, 2016.

- <http://www.ers.usda.gov/agricultural-act-of-2014-highlights-and-implications.aspx>
accessed August 17, 2017
- 14) US Department of Agriculture. 2016. *Agricultural Act of 2014: Highlights and Implications/Crop Commodity Programs*. Economic Research Service, Washington DC, May 11, 2016. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/agricultural-act-of-2014-highlights-and-implications/crop-commodity-programs.aspx> accessed August 17, 2017
 - 15) US Department of Agriculture. 2016. *Agricultural Act of 2014: Highlights and Implications/Crop Insurance*. Economic Research Service, Washington DC, May 11, 2016. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/agricultural-act-of-2014-highlights-and-implications/crop-insurance.aspx> accessed August 17, 2017
 - 16) Ferrier, Peyton. 2014. "Food in Popular Literature." *Choices* 29(1):1-6. <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/submitted-articles/food-in-popular-literature> accessed August 17, 2017
 - 17) Norwood, Bailey. 2015. "Understanding the Food Democracy Movement." *Choices* 30(4):1-5. http://www.choicesmagazine.org/UserFiles/file/cmsarticle_466.pdf accessed August 17, 2017
 - 18) Wilde, Parke. 2014. "After Long Argument, Then Compromise, Congress Agrees on Nutrition Assistance Benefit Cuts in the Agricultural Act of 2014." *Choices*, 29(2):1-4. <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/deciphering-key-provisions-of-the-agricultural-act-of-2014/after-long-argument-then-compromise-congress-agrees-on-nutrition-assistance-benefit-cuts-in-the-agricultural-act-of-2014> accessed August 17, 2017
 - 19) Wilde, Parke. 2016. "The Nutrition Title's Long, Sometimes Strained, but Not Yet Broken, Marriage with the Farm Bill." *Choices* 31(4):1-5. <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/looking-ahead-to-the-next-farm-bill/the-nutrition-titles-long-sometimes-strained-but-not-yet-broken-marriage-with-the-farm-bill> accessed August 17, 2017
 - 20) Collart, Alba J. 2016. "The Food Safety Modernization Act and the Marketing of Fresh Produce." *Choices*, 31(1):1-7. <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/producer-impacts-of-the-food-safety-modernization-act/the-food-safety-modernization-act-and-the-marketing-of-fresh-produce> accessed August 17, 2017
 - 21) US Department of Agriculture. 2016. Conservation Programs- Background. Economic Research Service, Washington DC, October 17, 2016. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/natural-resources-environment/conservation-programs/background/> accessed August 17, 2017
 - 22) Dowell, Tiffany. 2013. "Texas Water: Basics of Surface Water Law." *Texas Agriculture Law Blog*, Texas Agrilife Extension Service, September 30, 2013. <http://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/2013/09/30/texas-water-basics-of-surface-water-law/> accessed August 17, 2017
 - 23) Dowell, Tiffany. 2013. "Texas Water: Basics of Groundwater Law." *Texas Agriculture Law Blog*, Texas Agrilife Extension Service, October 22, 2013. <http://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/2013/10/22/texas-water-basics-of-groundwater-law/> accessed August 17, 2017
 - 24) Kusmin, Lorin. 2016. *Rural America at a Glance, 2016 Edition*. Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Information Bulletin (EIB-145). <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=80893> (Download the pdf

- version to read) accessed August 17, 2017
- 25) Hitaj, Claudia, Andrew Boslett and Jeremy G. Weber. 2014. "Shale Development and Agriculture." *Choices*, 29(4):1-7. <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/is-the-natural-gas-revolution-all-its-fracked-up-to-be-for-local-economies/shale-development-and-agriculture> accessed August 17, 2017

Supplemental:

[Growing a Nation: The Story of American Agriculture](#)

[USDA- Homepage](#)

[USDA- Foreign Agricultural Service](#)

[USDA-Economic Research Service](#)

[USDA-Farm Service Agency](#)

[USDA-Rural Development](#)

[Agricultural and Food Policy Center](#)

[AFPC- Policy Tools](#)

[Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute](#)

[MDG Monitor](#)

[World Trade Organization](#)

[NAFTA Secretariat](#)

[Overview of the Texas Economy](#)

COURSE OUTLINE:

Date	Class Activity	Assignment (Next or Future Class)
		Reading 1, Chap- Knutson, et al. T&S- Think and Share Response- in-class Reflection- out-of-class, (after experience), Bb
<u>Week 1</u>		
August		
W23	Introductions Significance of this course Policy and programs (Reading 1, Chap 1) Policy Making: Political Interactions and How a Bill Becomes a Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 1, Chaps 2 and 3 for M28
<u>Week 2</u>		
M28	Approaches to policy analysis- T&S Influence triangle- T&S	
W30	Response #1- Rationale for government involvement Video- America the Bountiful (Swords and Plowshares)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection #1- America the Bountiful (Swords and Plowshares) due to Bb by 11:00

Date	Class Activity	Assignment (Next or Future Class)
		am, W 6
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings 2 and 3 for W 6
<u>Week 3</u>		
September		
W 6	Response #2- History and policy foundations Historical Development of Ag Policy, 1800's (ppt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 4 for M11
<u>Week 4</u>		
M11	Response #3- World food problem Prevalence of undernourishment, FAO Map- T&S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings 5 and 6 for W13
W13	Response #4- Globalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 1, Chap 4 for M18
<u>Week 5</u>		
M18	Ethnocentric- TPS Geopolitical centers of influence- TPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 7 for W20
W20	Response #5- Absolute/comparative advantage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 1, Chap 5 for M25
<u>Week 6</u>		
M25	Videos and discussion- WTO and reducing barriers to trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection #2- WTO and reducing barriers to trade due to Bb by 11:00 am, W27 • Readings 8 and 9 for W27
W27	Videos and discussion- NAFTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection #3- NAFTA due to Bb by 11:00 am, M 2 • Reading 10 for M 2
<u>Week 7</u>		
October		
M 2	Videos- Protectionist trade policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection #4- Protectionist trade policies due to Bb by 11:00 am, W 4 • Print out America's Diverse Family Farms: 2016 Edition (entire report internal hyperlink) and bring to class on W 4
W 4	Structure- US Agriculture, "What is a family farm?" America's Diverse Family Farms- T&S	
<u>Week 8</u>		
M 9	Determining credible, scholarly work and how to properly cite it- T&S	

Date	Class Activity	Assignment (Next or Future Class)
	Video- Policy setting and programs, America the Bountiful (The Ever-Normal Granary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection #5- Policy setting and programs, America the Bountiful (The Ever-Normal Granary) due to Bb by 11:00 am, W11 • Reading 11 for W11
W11	Response #6- 20 th Century US farm policy US farm policy and USDA expenditures, taxpayer view and reality- T&S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings 12, 13, 14 and 15 for M16
<u>Week 9</u>		
M16	Response #7- Agricultural Act of 2014 Geographic influence- T&S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings 16 and 17 for W18
W18	Videos and discussion- Farm policy and a populist view	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection #6- Farm policy and a populist view due to Bb by 11:00 am, M23 • Readings 18 and 19 for M23
<u>Week 10</u>		
M23	Response #8- Food assistance and nutrition	
W25	Food aid and assistance- Take 2 SNAP and school lunch program eligibility- T&S	
<u>Week 11</u>		
M30	Farm Bill Titles http://nationalaglawcenter.org/farmbills/	
November		
W 1	Guest speaker, USDA-FSA programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection #7- Farm programs due to Bb by 11:00 am, M 6 • Reading 20 for M 6
<u>Week 12</u>		
M 6	Guest speaker, food safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection #8- Guest speaker, food safety due to Bb by 11:00 am, W 8 • Reading 1, Chap 9 and Reading 21 for W 8
W 8	Response #9- Environmental policy and conservation programs	
<u>Week 13</u>		
M13	Video and discussion- Dust Bowl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection #9- Dust Bowl due to

Date	Class Activity	Assignment (Next or Future Class)
		Bb by 11:00 am, W15
W15	Paper discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy paper due W15 • Readings 22 and 23 for M20
<u>Week 14</u>		
M20	Guest speaker, water policy Water, why be concerned in SE Texas?	
W22-F24	Thanksgiving Break	
<u>Week 15</u>		
M27	Guest speaker, rural economic development So, what does rural America look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 24 for M27
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection #10- Guest speaker, water policy or rural economic development due to Bb by 11:00 am, W29 • Reading 25 for W29 • Course evaluation due by W29
W29	Response #10- Oil, renewable fuels and agriculture Final reflection	