

Title of Course: **Agricultural and Food Policy**

- I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours:
The U.S. policy process as it relates to food and agricultural issues. Analysis of domestic farm, food, and resource policy as well as international trade and market development issues. (3)
- II. Prerequisites: AG 245 or EC 215, and EC225.
- III. Objectives of the Course
 - A. Increase understanding of the policy process in the U.S.
 - B. Develop the ability to use economic concepts to analyze the consequences of policy alternatives.
 - C. Become familiar with a range of past and current agriculture, food, and resource policy issues.
 - D. Improve the students ability to present, support, and defend a policy position.
- IV. Expectations of Students
 - A. Read required material **prior** to class attendance.
 - B. Attend class regularly and actively participate in class discussion.
 - C. Meet all announced deadlines for assignments.
 - D. Abide by University policies regarding academic honesty as stated in the *Student Handbook*.
- V. Course Content

The Policy Process	Periods
A. Policy Environment	3
B. Policy Problems	2
C. How U.S. Federal Policy Develops	4
D. Policy Interest Groups	3
Domestic Farm Policy	
A. The Farm Problem - History and Diagnosis	3

B. History of U.S. Farm Policy	3	
C. New Directions	2	
Structural Change in U.S. Agriculture		
A. Industrialization	4	
Agriculture and Resource Policy		
A. Basic Issues and Types of Resources	1	
B. Soil Conservation	1	
C. Water Quality and Supply Issues	1	
D. Endangered Species Policy		1
E. Farmland Preservation	1	
F. Global Warming	1	
U.S. Food Policy		
A. Nutrition, Food Safety and Food Quality	4	
International Agricultural Trade Policy		
A. Trade Theory	1	
B. U.S. Trade Policy	3	
Exams	2	
Debates	5	
VII. Textbook and Other References		
A. Textbook		
<i>Agricultural and Food Policy</i> by Ronald D. Knutson, J.B. Penn, and Barry L. Flinchbaugh, Prentice Hall, Fourth Edition, 1998.		
B. Other References		
<i>Sacred Cows and Hot Potatoes: Agrarian Myths in Agricultural Policy</i> by William P. Browne, Jerry R. Skees, Louis E. Swanson, Paul B. Thompson, and Laurian J. Unnevehr, Westview Press, 1992.		
<i>Family Farming: A New Economic Vision</i> by Marty Strange, University of Nebraska Press & Institute for Food and Development Policy, 1988.		
VIII. Basis for Student Evaluation		
A. Two one-hour exams	30%	
B. Final exam	15%	
C. Debates, problem sets, short papers and/or article reviews	45%	

D. Quizzes 5%

E. Class Participation 5%

Approved 9/23/98 by College Council.