

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS 451
AGRICULTURAL POLICY
Spring 2009

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dave Long
CLASS MEET: T TH 5:00pm-6:50 am
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OFFICE: Plumas Hall 208
OFFICE HOURS: T TH 9:00 am to 11: 00 pm and TH 2:00-4:00 pm
PREREQUISITES: ABUS 301 and ECON 102 or equivalents.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to offer students an opportunity to study the major problems confronting the U.S. agriculture industry, to understand the process by which government formulates agricultural policy, and to examine the domestic and international issues that affect the past and current government agricultural programs.

My purpose is to help students to build the capabilities and interests to integrate the training they have received with the knowledge they are about to learn in this class into a multi-dimension understanding of the U.S. and world agriculture policy issues. Students who take this class are expect to construct a critical perceptive of the real world agricultural problems and to have the capability of conducting independent and meaningful researches in the future.

TEXTBOOK

Knutson, Ronald D. JB Penn, Barry L. Flinchbaugh, and Joe L. Outlaw, 2007, *"Agricultural and Food Policy"*, 6th edition, Pearson/Prentice Hall. ISBN: 0-13-171873.

Readings from other sources will be assigned as well as class handouts.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Government Involvement in Agriculture and Food
 - Introduction to the forces of policy change
 - The U.S. Policy Decision Process
 - U.S. Farm Policy

- II. Regional and International Political Institutions and their Influences
 - Geopolitical Center of Influence,
 - NAFTA, WTO, and EU
 - Benefits of Trade (or not?)
 - Barriers to Trade and the Policy Evolution
 - U.S. Agriculture Trade Policy

III. Environmental Laws and Food Safety

- Water, Soil, Energy Resources
- Environmental Policy
- Food Safety
- Sustainability and Capitalism

IV. Labor market

- California Labor Market Review
- Labor Market Theory
- Native and Immigrants Labors in the Agriculture Industry

QUIZZES

There will be 5 quizzes throughout the whole semester. Each quiz is worth 8% of your total score. No make-up quiz would be available if any inevitable absence is not informed and permitted beforehand.

RESEARCH PROJECT

The term research project is due May 20 at the beginning of class. Late papers receive a 10 points reduction per day. The detail will be discussed in the class.

GRADING

A final course grade will be assigned based upon your performance on the following items in the table below. A letter grade is determined by the total number of points accumulated during the semester. Points are assigned as follows:

	<u>Percent of Final Grade</u>
Five Quizzes	40%
Research Project	40%
Class Participation/Discussion	20%

No make-up quizzes will be offered. No late homework will be accepted.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for the respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards (e.g., cheating and plagiarism) will be confronted and accept the consequences of their actions. The university's policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. It is the student's responsibility to know and understand the CSUC Academic Honesty Policy. The university's policy is provided in their catalog as well as via

its web site. Ignorance of university policies and to what constitutes academic dishonesty are not acceptable excuses in this matter. If there is evidence that the student has been involved in any form of academic dishonesty, the student(s) will receive an “F” grade for the course, and a report will be provided to Student Judicial Affairs for further action.

Notes:

1. This syllabus is subject to change.
2. If you need any special assistance regarding to your study, health, and other reasons, please do not hesitate to contact me as soon as possible.