

**AREC 478: AGRICULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Instructor Dr. Gregory Graff, Associate Professor
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Office hours Thursdays 1:00-3:00
Office B-328 Clark Building
Office phone (970) 491-4028
E-mail gregory.graff@colostate.edu

Course Objectives

1. Policy Analysis To understand how and why policies are made, why policies are needed, who policy participants are, how policy is implemented, and how policies impact society.
2. Agricultural Issues To study problems in and related to agriculture that merit policy consideration.
3. U.S. Policies To familiarize you with domestic agricultural and resource policy.
4. Policy Applications To apply your newfound analysis skills to address policy issues.

Grading

Your grade will be based on two mid-term exams, participation, a policy proposal project, and homework as follows:

Mid-term exams (2)	60 % (30 % each)
Homework	5 %
Participation	5 %
Policy Presentation	10 % (group grade)
Individual Policy Report	<u>20 %</u>
Total	100 %

Late assignments carry a late penalty of 10 percent per business day submitted after due date. (i.e. by tenth business day, the value has gone to zero.)

<p>What I expect from <u>YOU</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• attend class regularly and participate in discussions• complete all reading assignments before class• treat your classmates with respect• type all assignments, and FOLLOW directions• honor deadlines	<p>What you should expect from <u>ME</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• come to class prepared• make the class interesting and fun• treat you with fairness and respect• be clear about assignments and grading
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Midterm Exams

Exams I and II will draw primarily on class lectures, required readings, and homework assignments. They consist of three parts: (1) fill in the blank definitions, (2) short answer, and (3) long answer. The midterms tend to follow closely from the homework assignments. The second midterm is not comprehensive; it focuses on lectures and homework assignments after the first midterm. Midterms may not be made up if missed without my prior approval. You may bring a single (8 ½ x 11) page of handwritten notes (both sides) to any midterm. You may bring back your one-page notes from the first exam to the second exam. See the course outline for timing of midterms. A copy of past exams is available on Canvas.

There is no final exam for this course during finals week.

Homework

A series of homework will be given out over the semester; all of the homework is on Canvas. You are responsible for finding the homework and handing it in on time. The purpose of the homework is to improve your understanding of the lectures and prepare you for the midterms. You will do much better in the course if you do them and review them. The deadline for all homework is Friday at 5:00 p.m. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval from the instructor. Your homework will be returned with a key, and we will discuss the key in class.

Participation Activity

Policy is a contact sport. This course lets you choose a participation activity by which to raise your awareness and get engaged. You have two options for participation: 1) discussion boards, or 2) participation in a college club that it involved in policy, like the Collegiate Farm Bureau or Farmers Union.

Discussion Boards (OPTION 1): Students choosing this option must participate in a variety of online exercises. Simply follow the Discussion items in Canvas every other week. A reading or topic will be provided for each discussion. The objective is to learn about current policy issues and to dialogue about them with your classmates in an online setting. You must make at least two posts in total each time (one post initiating an observation or opinion of your own, plus one post in response to another student's posting.)

Involvement in a Policy Relevant Club (OPTION 2): A number of student organizations at CSU provide good exposure to real world policy issues, such as the CSU chapter of Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, Americans for Informed Democracy, College Republicans, Young Democrats, etc.) For your participation activity, you may choose to be actively involved in such a student organization for the semester. The organization must be approved by the instructor at the start of the semester. (Please note: Involvement in fraternities and sororities, social, athletic, or judging activities cannot be used to meet this option.) Your grade will depend on the extent of your involvement. You may have one excused absence from regular meetings/events of the club. (You will lose 20 percent of your total participation activity points for each unexcused absence.) You also must participate in at least one committee or special event organized by the club. Turn in a letter to the instructor by the final day of class summarizing your attendance and activities for the semester: 1 page, written by you, and signed by you and by the faculty advisor of the club, along with his/her name, e-mail and phone number.

Policy Proposal Final Projects

In the third week of the semester we will begin to prepare for final projects by choosing policy topics and selecting project teams of six persons. Each student is responsible for signing up to join one of the teams to do one of these presentations. As a team you will develop and present a proposal for a new policy or policy reform that will help solve a problem in agriculture or natural resource management (water, fish & game, land use, wildfires, etc).

Each team is responsible for getting together on your own and determining how you will develop a policy **proposal**, as we will have defined it over the course of the semester, regarding the topic for which you signed up. That is, you must offer a policy solution to a current problem. Milestones and deadlines leading up to the final presentation can be found in Canvas.

Presentations and Debates: Each team will have a full class session, in one of the last six classes at the end of the semester, to make their policy presentation, followed by a short debate. You will have 40 minutes to make your case to the class. Then the instructor will present arguments and questions from an opposing viewpoint for about 10-15 minutes. You will then have some time for rebuttal. All people in the group must speak, but you can use any approach that you want to make your point. See the policy proposal guidelines in Canvas for more information about ***requirements and deadlines***. The presentation is worth 10% of your final course grade. You will be graded both by your professor and by your peers.

Individual Policy Proposal Reports: In addition to your group presentation, each person in the group must individually submit a 5-page typewritten report ***one week after your group's presentation***. You must stick to the same topic of your presentation and support the same side of the issue that your group supported. This report is worth 20% toward your final course grade and must be your own work. Again, see Canvas for more information about ***requirements and deadlines***.

Course Organization

It is worth taking a moment to discuss how this course is organized. Everything you need is organized on Canvas in folders that match the 15 weeks of the semester. The first 12 weeks are lectures. The last three weeks (six classes) are for in-class policy proposal presentations. The first midterm exam will be after week 6 of the semester; the second midterm exam will be week 12 of the semester. You are responsible for going to the appropriate folder online each week. You can work ahead of schedule if you like. In each folder you will find ***instructions*** which outlines the week's reading materials and assignments. We recommend that you print handouts, like the syllabus, when possible, and bring them with you to refer to and write on in class. Homework solutions will be passed out hard copy in class.

The semester's course content is organized around and presented via several items that you will find on the course's Canvas site:

- The ***Policy Recipe***, which is one of your first handouts. This is a graphical representation of the course content.
- The ***Course Outline***, which has the exact same information as the policy recipe, with more detail.
- The ***Course Notes*** are a homemade textbook. They provide more filler to the outline and provide the details like those presented in lectures.
- ***Various handouts*** – You will find extra readings and other handouts in each folder.
- A set of ***Powerpoint Lectures*** that represent each lecture will be provided approximately 1 week before each exam.

We will follow the outline explicitly in class. Try to focus on the outline and policy recipe as the systematic information you are supposed to learn. This will help you on exams. That is, on exams, use the outline as a template of your answer, filling in details the way we do in the course notes and the PowerPoints.

Attendance

You are expected in each class! Years of experience has shown that your performance on exams in this class is highly correlated with your physical presence in class. It is not enough to try to simply read the materials on your own. Repeated absences may result in a reduction of your grade.

NOTE: Attendance is required during the policy presentations: a half a letter grade will be deducted for any unexcused absence during the last six classes of the semester.