AGRICULTURAL POLICY

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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Communication Policy: (Email or make appointments for in-person consultation)

Teaching Asst: To be announced
Contact: To be announced
Office hours: To be announced

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course will help students learn why policies are needed and how they are developed and implemented. We will focus on policies in agriculture, including natural resources related to agriculture. The first 12 weeks of the course are focused on theory and methods, using several actual problems to demonstrate concepts. The last 3 weeks are set aside for each student to apply what they have learned to describe an actual policy solution to something that they are interested in. Students have presented policies to address everything from pollution to wild horses, from farm subsidies to taxes, and from buying local to food safety.

1. Policy Analysis -   To understand how and why policies are made: why policies are needed, who the
                              policy participants are, how policy is implemented, and how they 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.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Everything you need for this course is organized into modules on Canvas that match the 15 weeks of the semester. The first 12 weeks are lectures. The last three weeks are your presentations. There are 9 modules that we will go through the first 12 weeks, and a number of other helpful modules about the presentations or resources. You are responsible for going to the appropriate module, which is about one each week. I recommend printing the course schedule and noting all deadlines. In each module you will find required readings, handouts, lectures, and homework assignments.   I recommend that you print handouts, like the syllabus, where possible. An announcement will be sent weekly that will remind you about things and let me convey any information not already in Canvas. Detailed homework Keys will be posted through an announcement out after you hand in your homework.

Resources that will help you are also provided on the home page. These include:

- 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.
- **Past exams** that you can use to study for the exam.
- A link to information about your **presentations.** You should look through these materials early on.

Midterm Exams: Midterms 1 and 2 will draw primarily on class lectures, required readings, and homework assignments. They will be taken on line (a 3-hour test that you can take any time within a one-week window) and consist of true/false and multiple choice questions. I will ask you to print out a graph that will have letters in it that you will use for your multiple choice questions. 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. However, information from the first exam is still expected to support answers on the second exam. Midterms may not be made up if missed without my prior approval. A copy of past exams is available in Canvas. There is no final exam during finals week.

Homework and Discussions: A series of homeworks will be given out over the semester; all of the homework is on Canvas. The purpose of the homeworks 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 homeworks is in the same place you download them, and on the schedule.   Your homeworks will not be returned but I will supply you with a key. I want you to think of homework as practice for the class. I would rather you try and not do so well, than to get help just to get your homework right and not learn from the experience. So, please put forward your best effort and turn in your work, even if you feel it has errors or is incomplete. Next, wait for me to send you the key. Go over the key and see if you missed anything. You should get a description about how to do anything you missed at that time. If you understand what you missed, you are ready to move on. If not, that is the time to contact me to discuss what you still don't understand. I know you might get frustrated at times, but this system works. Trying to figure it out on your own helps you learn it better; in return, I give you a detailed key, give good grades for trying, and give a low weight to the homework. There are also 6 discussions. You must post one original idea and comment on someone else's post.

Policy Proposal Final Projects: *Each of you must* submit a PowerPoint presentation at the end of the semester. If you turn it in earlier, I will try to get your grade done earlier. There are no lectures in week 13, 14 or 15, which should give you time to complete this assignment. The purpose is to suggest a policy solution to some actual problem in or related to agriculture. Please find full instructions in your handouts, including dates for early versions (drafts). The PowerPoint may be up to 40 slides and should include notes. It must be PowerPoint and it must be submitted to me as a PowerPoint (**not pdf or some other format like Prezi**).

TEXTBOOK / COURSE READING

All material supplied online through course website

PARTICIPATION/BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

- Participate in classes regularly and participate in discussions
- Complete all reading assignments before class
- Type all assignments, and FOLLOW directions. (You may use a scanner or even your phone for graphics or other materials that you cannot type yourself. Paste them into the assignment)
- Honor deadlines

Expected Outcomes: *(This class builds on the following DARE outcomes)*

- ***Professional Development:*** Graduates will embody a general awareness of issues in agricultural and natural resource management and their implications in a larger societal context. Students will begin to develop a network of personal and professional connections which will foster an understanding of the culture surrounding professional expectations and conduct.
- ***Problem-solving Skills***: Graduates will demonstrate the ability to solve real-world problems beyond the context of the classroom. Students will be able to identify a problem and its scope, evaluate resources available to address the problem, formulate alternative solutions, and select the solution(s) most consistent with a stated objective.
- ***Communication Skills:*** Graduates will demonstrate proficiency in oral and written communication in terms of substance, organization, mechanics, documentation, and synthesis. Proficient students will have the ability to clearly communicate findings, critically and analytically, at a professional level within their chosen career.
- ***Leadership:*** Graduates will have developed leadership qualities that they will use in their professional, personal and community interactions leveraging the other competencies acquired in the program. These leadership qualities include vision, initiative, personal responsibility, team building, and motivating collective action.

GRADING POLICY

97-100% = A+
91-96.99 = A
89-90.99% = A-
87-88.99% = B+
81-86.99% = B
79-80.99% = B-
70-78.99% = C
60-69.99% = D
0-59.99% = F

Assignment*	Grade Points	Grade Percentage
Participation (Discussions)	100/each	5
Homeworks (9 homeworks)	100/each	5
Exam 1	100	30
Exam 2	100	30
Final project (policy Powerpoint)	100	30
Total:		**100 %**

*Keep a copy of all work created for the course

PROCTORING

Exams in this course are NOT proctored

ACCOMMODATION OF NEEDS

If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class, please contact me to discuss your individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation. A verifying memo from [Resources for Disabled Students](#) may be required before any accommodation is provided.

Accommodations for disabilities - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires Colorado State University to provide academic adjustments or accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students seeking academic adjustment or accommodations must self-identify with the Office of Resources for Disabled Students (ORDS). You may call for an appointment at: 491-6385 or stop in at 100 General Services Building. After meeting with ORDS staff, and based on their recommendations, students are encouraged to meet with their instructors to discuss their needs, and if applicable, any lab safety concerns related to their disabilities.

Academic and Professional Honesty Policy - This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog {Page 7} and the Student Conduct Code. Honors students enrolled in this course are held to high standards of integrity. Academic integrity is expected within all assignments for this course. It is expected that students will use their own knowledge and skill for assignments unless directed to do otherwise. Incidents of cheating, plagiarism or knowingly providing false or incorrect information are considered serious and will be treated seriously. Consequences of these incidents are at the discretion of the faculty member involved and may consist of confiscation of assignments, an F grade, or reporting to the CSU Student Conduct office. It is expected that students will demonstrate concern for others, respect the confidentiality of information about, the property of and the decisions made by others.

Reporting student disclosures of interpersonal violence - CSU's Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Retaliation policy designates faculty and employees of the University as "Responsible Employees" (https://oeo.colostate.edu/title-ix-sexual-assault-sexual-violence-sexual-harassment/). This designation is consistent with federal law and guidance, and requires faculty to report information regarding students who may have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation. This includes information shared with faculty in person, electronic communications or in class assignments. As "Responsible Employees," faculty may refer students to campus resources (see below), together with informing the Office of Support and Safety Assessment to help ensure student safety and welfare. Information regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking and retaliation is treated with the greatest degree of confidentiality possible while also ensuring student and campus safety.

Any student who may be the victim of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation is encouraged to report to CSU through one or more of the following resources:

- o Emergency Response 911
- o Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Office of Support and Safety Assessment (970) 491-1350
- o Colorado State University Police Department (non-emergency) (970) 491-6425

Additional Resources - The CSU Writing Center is an excellent resource to support the development of your writing skills throughout your college career. While students are not required to access services, you are strongly encouraged to seek consultation on your writing projects required for this course. In addition to contact information, there are useful resources available on their website: http://writing.colostate.edu/.

CANVAS INFORMATION & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Canvas is the where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

- Login: canvas.colostate.edu
- Support: info.canvas.colostate.edu
- For Canvas, Passwords, or any other computer-related technical support, contact the Central IT Technical Support Help Desk.
  - o (970) 491-7276
  - o helpdesk.colostate.edu
  - o help@colostate.edu

The Technical Requirements page identifies the browsers, operating systems, and plugins that work best with Canvas. If you are new to Canvas quickly review the Canvas Student Orientation materials.