

AGRICULTURAL POLICY

AGEC 4603

Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness

Louisiana State University and A&M College

Fall 2017 Semester

**Course Syllabus**

- Class Schedule: 9:30-10:20 a.m., M W F  
134 J.C. Miller Hall
- Instructor: Dr. Michael A. Deliberto  
229 Martin D. Woodin Hall  
Office Phone: 578-7267  
Office Hours: 10:30-11:30 a.m., Monday and Wednesday, and/or by appointment  
E-mail: [mdeliberto@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:mdeliberto@agcenter.lsu.edu)  
Please put "AGEC 4603" in the subject line of your email to the Instructor.
- Course Description: 4603 Agricultural Policy (3) F. Prerequisite: grade of "C" or above in AGECEC 2003 and ECON 2030 or ECON 2000 and ECON 2010 or equivalent. Role of agriculture in the national economy; how agricultural policy decisions affect the general public; emphasis on economic impacts of policies on producers and consumers of agricultural products; effects of other nations' policies on American agriculture.
- Textbook: No textbook will be required for this class. However, a majority of the class material will be based on agricultural policy principles addressed in: Knutson, Ronald D., J.B. Penn, and W.T. Boehm. Agricultural and Food Policy, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., Prentice Hall Education. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, 1998.
- Additional readings from other sources will be assigned throughout the semester. Copies of readings will be made available online via the MyLSU web portal.
- Course Objectives: The course examines domestic and international agricultural issues and the role of interest groups in formulating U.S. agricultural policy. Students will become acquainted with the role of agriculture in the national economy and how agricultural policy decisions affect the general public. The course will discuss how economic tools are used to evaluate the impact of agricultural policy on producers, agribusinesses, consumers, and rural residents. Students will also develop an understanding of the economic impact of the agricultural policies of individual nations on international trade. Policy issues such as price and income stability, the environment, food safety, and rural development will be discussed.

Grade Scale: No grading curve will be applied to any assignment/exam in this class. The final course grade will be assigned using the following grade scale:

90.000 – 100.00%	A
80.000 – 89.999%	B
70.000 – 79.999%	C
60.000 – 69.999%	D
<i>Less than 60.000%</i>	F

Plus/minus suffix grading will take effect for grades given for the 2015 fall semester. The assignment of the plus/minus suffix letter grading system will be implemented in AGECE 4603 as follows. The ten-point scale will be defined into thirds. Meaning that the lower one third of the grade region will carry a minus designation, the middle third will carry no suffix, and the top third of the scale will carry the plus designation.

Applying this to the 10-point range of the “A” grade category, performance reflecting a 90.000 to 93.332 score will result in an “A-” being assigned to the student. Students earning a 93.333 to 96.665, will witness an “A” grade being assigned. Students receiving a grade greater than 96.666 (on the 10-point “A” scale) will be assigned the grade of “A+”. This methodology will be applied uniformly to the B, C, and D grade categories.

Grading Procedure:	<u>Evaluation Method</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
	Exam 1, Exam 2, Exam 3 <i>(drop lowest score, remaining exams equate to 27.5% each)</i>	55%
	Final Exam	20%
	Quizzes	15%
	Homework	10%

Grading Information: Students will be expected to attend class each day and participate in all discussions, quizzes, and exams, as described in the “Grading Procedure” section above. Assignments turned in past the due date and time will not be accepted and a zero grade will be recorded. No make-up opportunities will be granted to students. Guidelines/requirements will be given in advance for each assignment. Students will have 24 hours after grades are posted to contest any grade received.

Final Exam: The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2017, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. All students registered for this class will take the final exam at the time assigned by the University. A complete list of the fall 2016 semester schedule can be accessed at:

<https://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/files/2017/06/2017-Fall-Schedule-Booklet-Revised-6-7.pdf>

- Class Absences:** Only absences deemed by the Instructor in accordance with LSU PS-22 will be excused. The student is required to e-mail the Instructor prior to missing class. Written documentation should be provided prior to the next class meeting. Documentation provided to the Instructor for an absence past 48 hours of the missed class and/or assignment will not be accepted. Absences for routine illnesses and work will not be excused. If you have a situation which will result in you missing an excessive amount of class, contact the Instructor immediately. Documentation will be required.
- Exams:** Exams will be a combination of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay. No make-up exams will be given. If a student misses Exams 1, 2, or 3, that exam will count as the drop score. If a second exam is missed, the exam will be recorded as a zero. The use of programmable calculators and i-phones are strictly prohibited on all exams.
- Quizzes:** In-class quizzes and pop-quizzes will be given during the semester. Students are to be present prior to quiz distribution to qualify to take the quiz. Students entering the classroom after the quiz has started will not be allowed to take the quiz.
- Homework:** Several homework problem exercises will be assigned during the semester. All homework assigned will count towards the final course grade. Homework must be turned in by the specified due date (in-person) and not accepted via e-mail.
- Moodle:** All reading assignments, homework assignments, and material presented in class, as well as homework and exam grades, will be posted on MyLSU. It is the responsibility of the student to access course material on Moodle on a regular basis to keep up to date with assignments and other course information. All students in this course will be required to use their MyLSU account. Your MyLSU e-mail address will be the primary method of communication. Please note that the LSU IT Help Desk can be accessed at: <http://itsweb.lsu.edu/USS/help%20desk/item2424.html>
- Electronic Devices:** All electronic devices (cell phones, i-pads, laptops, etc.) are to be silenced and placed off of the desktops during class lectures and exams. Anyone using an electronic device during class will be asked to leave and forfeit the opportunity to gain any points toward their course grade via a quiz and/or an in-class assignment.
- Student Behavior:** Class attendance is required to accomplish course objectives and achieve satisfactory performance on exams. Students are expected to be on time for class and to stay until class has ended. Students are expected to read assigned course material and are expected to be responsible for that material on exams. Please do not carry on personal conversations during class.

**Student Conduct:** Evidence of academic misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate university authorities. Students are expected to abide by the University rules governing academic conduct, as discussed in the *Code of Student Conduct*.  
<http://saa.lsu.edu/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct%20August%2009.pdf>

**Am. Disability Act:** The LSU Office of Disability Services (ODS), in collaboration with other university departments, is committed to providing appropriate auxiliary aids and services for students with disabilities in an effort to ensure their full participation in all activities, programs, and services to the university. If a student believes he or she has a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the ODS at 578-5919 or [disability@lsu.edu](mailto:disability@lsu.edu)