

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Food and Resource Economics Department
Course Syllabus: Fall Semester 2015 -- Section 7756 – 3 Credits
AEB 4242: INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE POLICY

Class Time and Location: Tuesdays Periods 5&6 (11:45 am – 1:40 pm)
Thursdays Period 6 (12:50 - 1:40 pm)
G-086 McCarty Hall B

Instructor: Dr. John J. VanSickle
1185 McCarty Hall Phone: 294-7634 e-mail: sickle@ufl.edu
Office Hours: 10:30-11:30am Tuesdays and Thursdays

Teaching Assistant: Ayuba Seidu
aseidu@ufl.edu

Readings: Assigned from course homepage

Homepage: A web page has been developed on E-Learning and is available at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

Other Sources: Additional information may be found at various web-sites. Examples: Food & Resource Economics Department Farm Bill web page (<http://fred.ifas.ufl.edu/FarmBill/>) Center for Food and Agribusiness (agecon.purdue.edu/cab); Agr. and Food Policy Center (afpc.tamu.edu); Center for North American Studies (CNAS.tamu.edu); Texas Agricultural Market Research Center (tamrc.tamu.edu); Agricultural Issues Center (aic.ucdavis.edu); the U.S. Trade Representative (ustr.gov); U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service (fas.usda.gov); U.S.D.A. Economic Research Service (ers.usda.gov); choicesmagazine.org; truthabouttrade.org; U.S. International Trade Commission (usitc.gov).

Office Hours: The following times will be reserved for student consultation: 12:30-1:30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. If these times are not convenient, you may (and are encouraged to) schedule an appointment with the instructor for another mutually-convenient time.

Learning Objectives: Increase students' understanding and appreciation of: the role of policy and its impact on the economic environment in which agribusiness firms operate; the effects of various policies and policy issues on domestic and international competition and prices; the relationship between policies and firm decisions at all levels of the food and fiber production/marketing channel; and the role of rent-seeking in the policy process. The course will: give students the opportunity to enhance their analytical and communication skills; challenge students to think critically, and to defend their positions with relevant information, logic and theory, and; help prepare students for the changing policy environment in which they will live and work.

Course Description: This course focuses on understanding the policy-development process and analyzing domestic and international policies and their influence on the decisions and success of agribusiness firms. Emphasis will be placed on developing a policy perspective and an understanding of the significance of policy dynamics. Various policy environments, drivers, mechanisms and processes will be analyzed. The economic and political forces underlying policy formation and change will be examined. The impact of current policies and policy issues on agribusiness firms, the relationship between policy signals and firm decisions, and the avenues for influencing the policy process will be explored. Policies considered include those associated with domestic agricultural price and income support, international trade, competition, the environment, food safety, biotechnology, country-of-origin labeling, economic development, and globalization. U.S. policies are compared with those which influence agribusinesses in other countries.

Central Questions for Students: (1) How can I understand the impacts of the policy environment on my personal and professional life? (2) How can I assess the impacts of current and changing policies on agribusiness? (3) How do firms deal with the uncertainties associated with the intended and unintended consequences of a dynamic policy environment? (4) How does agribusiness respond to and attempt to influence relevant policies?

Format: AEB 4242 is a reading-thinking-discussion course. Class time will be used to explore the reading topics. Class discussions will begin where student reading ends.

Attendance Policy:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> UF has summarized campus-wide policies regarding attendance that cover the drop/add period, religious holidays, illness, and UF extracurricular activities, including athletics. In short, you are expected to notify the instructor prior to any absences and provide documentation when relevant. Regular attendance and **positive contributions** to class discussions are **suggested and expected**.

Exams: Two exams (midterm and final) will cover material from class discussions and reading assignments. Guidance and suggestions for study will be offered prior to each exam. **50% of course grade** (Midterm 25% and Final 25% each). In class final on Monday, 12/8/15. A comprehensive optional final will be offered as scheduled on Wednesday, December 16 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. It can be used to substitute for either the midterm or in-class final.

Quizzes: There will be scheduled quizzes over assigned readings worth **10% of your grade**.

Written Assignments: Students will develop a pair of **policy briefs** addressing various issues, their potential impacts and recommended courses of action. **30% of course grade**.

Discussion Contributions & Oral Assignments: Positive class contributions, including discussion leadership and participation in discussions, are expected. Students are expected to read widely and contribute outside information and observations (including current events) to discussions. **10% of course grade.** Obviously, there is an expectation of continued, positive, proactive involvement in class discussions.

I expect you to abide by standards of civility and professionalism in my classroom. This means that you will respect the instructor and your fellow students by NOT doing the following:

- (1) Talking while any other person -- instructor or fellow student -- is talking;
- (2) Reading or studying anything other than materials relevant to this course, and
- (3) **Showing up for class late or departing early** (or getting ready to leave by packing up books, etc., when class time is nearly ended).

Academic Honesty: Adherence to the UF Academic Honesty Guidelines & Student Honor Code, **is expected.** In completing the application for admission to UF, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

The Honor Code: *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.*

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University, the following pledge is either required or implied: **“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”** Moreover, any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the Instructor, Department Chair, College Dean or Student Honor Court.

UF Counseling Services: Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include: University Counseling Center, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, personal and career counseling; Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling; Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161x231, sexual assault counseling; and Career Resource Center, 1st Floor, Reitz Union, 392-1602, career development assistance and counseling.

Software Use: All faculty, staff, and students of the University of Florida are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. **We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.**

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Grades: Grades are neither rewards nor punishments, but rather consequences.

Grades tend to be positively associated with timely reading of assignments, thinking about the readings/discussions, and regular class attendance and contribution.

Course Grade Composition: Final course grades are composed of **50% exams, 30% policy briefs and other written assignments, 10% quizzes and 10% class contributions and other oral assignments.** Course grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

91% or greater A	79-80.99% B-	67-68.99% D+
89-90.99% A-	77-78.99% C+	61-66.99% D
87-88.99% B+	71-76.99% C	59-60.99% D-
81-86.99% B	69-70.99% C-	Less than 59% E

Topical Outline

1. Public Policy Perspectives and an Overview of the Policy Process
2. U.S. Farm and Food Policy
- 3 Agricultural Trade and Trade Policy: Trends, Characteristics and Explanations
4. Arguments and Tools for Protection
5. Regional Trade Agreements and Negotiations
6. Multilateral Trade Agreements and Negotiations: GATT and the WTO
7. Agro-Environmental Policy
8. A Potpourri of Policy Issues Affecting Agribusiness

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Quiz 1

Name _____ **UFID#** _____

Email: _____

Hometown/State/Country: _____

Current Major/Degree Program: _____

Agriculture/Agribusiness/Business or Internship Experience: _____

Career Objectives (if any): _____

Goals for this Course (if any): _____

Hobbies: _____

Which best describes your background? farm____; rural non-farm____;
urban/suburban____

_____ I have read and understand the provisions of the Course Syllabus. I understand that class participation is important in determining my grade.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____