

Agriculture and Natural Resource Ethics AEB 4126

Fall 2022

Class Number: 23697

M,W,F | Period 7 (1:55 PM - 2:45 PM)

TUR 2333

Instructor: Dr. Caleb Stair

Office: 1193 McCarty A Wing

Office Hours: MWF 12pm -1pm & 3pm-4pm; Thursday 1pm-3pm (or by appointment)

Phone: 352-294-7687

Email: cstair@ufl.edu

Communications:

DO NOT COMMUNICATE VIA CANVAS MESSAGES!!

I will communicate with you about news, assignments, emergencies, cancellations etc., through the announcements in Canvas. **PLEASE CHECK OUR CANVAS PAGE FREQUENTLY.** If you are struggling in the class, please let me know. My office hours are listed above. Those are times that you can definitely reach me. This does not mean that those are the only times you can meet with me. If those times do not work for you, we will schedule a separate time.

Course Description:

This is a course about social, political, economic, and ethical issues that arise in connection with the "food and fiber system" -- agriculture, food production/distribution, natural resource use/management, etc. --and public policy responses to those issues. This course satisfies the 6000-word "Gordon Rule" writing requirement based on the exams and the debate paper.

Course Goals:

Students will:

- 1) Construct opinions through research and articulate these opinions to others on a scientific/economic/cultural issue.
- 2) Understand the "big picture" regarding the food and fiber system: How do the individual "pieces" like traditional family farms, environmental activists, global corporations, public policy decision-makers, consumers, etc., fit together in the larger scheme of things?
- 3) Learn philosophical / ethical concepts and positions that can be useful in thinking about actions, practices, and policies, for example, the difference between thinking of ethical obligations in terms of "protecting rights" vs. "securing the greater social good."
- 4) Develop/improve their ability to think, talk, and most importantly write intelligently and reflectively (critically) about issues and positions and arguments as exemplified in (1) and (2) above.

I hope that you will use this course to inform yourself in greater depth about the food system and about ethics, and also use this course to help you clarify your own beliefs and values regarding these and other ethical issues, as well as hone your analytical and argument skills. “Just as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Required Texts:

There is no textbook required for this class. Instead, I will pull notes from several different sources and occasionally assign readings for class. All readings are located in the CANVAS class files for the course. Even lacking a “book” or set of books, however, THERE IS A LOT OF REQUIRED READING FOR THIS COURSE. The readings are starting points for our discussions. Your take home essays will be based on both the assigned readings and what we discuss in class.

Grades:¹

1. Papers

- Logical Fallacy Paper - (15%)
 - Find a debate that has occurred in the past that deals with some aspect of natural resources or agriculture. Write a 1000 – 1200 -word analysis of the debate. Including: 1) Debate style of both sides. 2) Particular key lines of reasoning. 3) Possible logical fallacies that may have been used and a description of those logical fallacies. 4) Overall summary of the debate.
- Debate Back and Forth Paper – (15%)
 - Students will be paired with another. You will be assigned a topic and a side of the debate (for or against). You will then write a back-and-forth debate style discussion paper. Each participant is expected to write eight responses in total 200 - 250 words each. For an example see the footnote below.²
- Final Paper - (20%)
 - This will consist of a persuasive essay (approximately 2000 - 2500-word answers for each) on the topic of your debate. Submit via canvas on the date of our final day of class (August 8th) by 11:59pm.

2. Debate - (10%)

- The class will be randomly divided into small (~4-person) teams’ mid-semester. These teams will research the background on specific pre-determined topics in preparation for a series of debates at the end of the semester. You will be given ample time to meet with your team to prepare your position statements/arguments. **Grades will be**

¹ Grades are displayed on Canvas but do not include the weights described in the GRADES section.

² <https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2014/12/28/have-human-rights-treaties-failed>

based on your team's overall performance (as judged by the instructor), as well as your teammates' confidential evaluation of your partners' contribution to the project, and the audience's evaluation of your debate team. You also must attend 2 of the final debates at the end of the semester (**not counting your own**).

3. Discussions (10%)

- Throughout the semester there will be three discussion questions based off the notes and topics we cover. For each question you will be graded for an initial post (60%) of approximately 250 words and a response to a fellow classmate (40%) of at least 150 words. The response must be to a viewpoint that you disagree with or at least find a portion of their response disagreeable to receive full credit. Posts should be relevant to the topic being discussed but should also attempt to introduce a new point of view or piece of information or otherwise further the discussion. Posts should use correct grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary appropriate for a university level course. Misuse of the discussion boards will not be tolerated. The lowest score will be dropped.

4. *Section Quizzes*– (20%)

- There will be three quizzes issued throughout the semester. Each will cover information for the class. These will be due at 11:59pm. The lowest score will be dropped.

5. *Participation* – (10%)

- Throughout the semester we will have twelve in-class activities (ten announced and two unannounced). Your two lowest scores will be dropped.

Course grades:

A = 93 – 100 points
A- = 90 – 92.9 points
B + = 87 – 89.9 points
B = 83 – 86.9 points
B- = 80 – 82.9 points
C+ = 77– 79.9 points
C = 73 – 76.9 points
C- = 70 – 72.9 points
D+ = 67 – 69.9 points
D = 63 – 66.9 points
D- = 60 – 62.9 points
F = below 59.9 points

Course Policies:

- I expect you to abide by standards of civility and professionalism in this course. It has a large discussion-based component and several of the topics may elicit passionate debate about the subject at hand. Debates can be passionate; however, a lack of civility or professionalism is unacceptable.
- Late writing assignments will only be accepted up to two days after the due date. If an assignment is issued on Thursday and is due in a week it must be submitted by 11:59pm the following Thursday. Assignments submitted at 12:00am Friday are considered one day late. Late writing assignments will receive only half credit and writing assignments that are not submitted or that are submitted more than two days after the deadline will receive a 0.
- Plagiarism is unacceptable in this class. I will use the plagiarism database Turnitin.com to check submitted work. While I will cover some aspects of plagiarism and how to avoid it in class UF also has resources that can provide assistance in avoiding plagiarism in your writing and citing styles at <http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/c.php?g=147797&p=967443>
- For the most part, notes will be provided via Canvas along with short videos concerning the subjects. I will post these to our CANVAS website as the semester progresses. If you read the Canvas notes and are still confused, please contact me and we can discuss any issues.
- If for some reason you need to submit an assignment via email, make sure that in the subject line please you state the course number and assignment title. Also, please save your documents as *AEB4126_AssignmentTitle_YourNameHere*
- COVID-19
 - We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions. Understand that this is an evolving situation so these policies may be updated as the semester progresses.
 - Masks recommendations will follow those of the University.
 - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
 - If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/frequently-asked-questions/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Find more information in the university attendance policies.

Academic Honesty and the UF Honor Code

The University of Florida holds its students to the highest standards, and we encourage students to read the University of Florida Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040-1), so they are aware of our standards. Any violation of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution and may result in academic sanctions and further student conduct action. The two greatest threats to the academic integrity of the University of Florida are cheating and plagiarism. Students should be aware of their faculty's policy on collaboration, should understand how to properly cite sources, and should not give nor receive an improper academic advantage in any manner through any medium. The honor code can be found at <http://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/4.040-1.pdf>

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled.

The only allowable purposes are: (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students of the university 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.

Students with Disabilities:

Resources for Disabled Students: If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible to set up the appropriate arrangements. Please do not wait until an assignment is due to request accommodations. Further information can be found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>.

Student Counseling and Support:

Several resources are available on campus for students. <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>

- Honors Advising
 - <http://www.honors.ufl.edu/current/advising/>
 - 343 Infirmary Building
 - (352) 392-1519
- Dean of Students
 - <http://www.dso.ufl.edu>
 - P202 Peabody Hall
 - (352) 392-1261
- Counseling and Wellness Center
 - <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>
 - 2190 Radio Road
 - (352) 392-1575
- Student Health Care Center
 - <http://shcc.ufl.edu>
 - Infirmary Building
 - (352) 392-1161
- Career Resource Center
 - <http://www.crc.ufl.edu>
 - 1st Floor, Reitz Union
 - (352) 392-1601
- International Center
 - <http://www.ufic.ufl.edu/>
 - Suite 170, Hub Building
 - (352) 392-5323

Online Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

TENTATIVE DISCUSSION TOPICS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Day	AEB 4126 Topics	AEB 4126 Due
24-Aug	Wednesday	Syl. Day	
25-Aug	Thursday		
26-Aug	Friday	Logic & Reason	
29-Aug	Monday	Logic & Reason	
30-Aug	Tuesday		
31-Aug	Wednesday	Ethics Overview	
1-Sep	Thursday		
2-Sep	Friday	Ethics Overview	Activity
5-Sep	Monday	Holiday	
6-Sep	Tuesday		Discussion #1 Open
7-Sep	Wednesday	Ethics Overview	
8-Sep	Thursday		
9-Sep	Friday	Debate / Writing Workshop	Activity
12-Sep	Monday	Wildlife Management	Discussion #1 Due
13-Sep	Tuesday		
14-Sep	Wednesday	Wildlife Management	Activity
15-Sep	Thursday		
16-Sep	Friday	Wildlife Management	
19-Sep	Monday	Resource Extraction	Quiz #1 Open
20-Sep	Tuesday		
21-Sep	Wednesday	Resource Extraction	Activity
22-Sep	Thursday		

23-Sep	Friday	Resource Extraction	Quiz #1 Due
26-Sep	Monday	Alternative Energy	Activity
27-Sep	Tuesday		
28-Sep	Wednesday	Alternative Energy	Draft Due
29-Sep	Thursday		
30-Sep	Friday	Alternative Energy	Paper #1 Due
3-Oct	Monday	Automation	
4-Oct	Tuesday		
5-Oct	Wednesday	Automation	Activity
6-Oct	Thursday		
7-Oct	Friday	Homecoming	
10-Oct	Monday	Types of Agriculture	Activity / Discussion #2 Open
11-Oct	Tuesday		
12-Oct	Wednesday	Types of Agriculture	
13-Oct	Thursday		
14-Oct	Friday	Types of Agriculture	
17-Oct	Monday	Fisheries	Discussion #2 Due
18-Oct	Tuesday		
19-Oct	Wednesday	Fisheries	
20-Oct	Thursday		
21-Oct	Friday	Fisheries	
24-Oct	Monday	Trade	Quiz #2 Open

25-Oct	Tuesday		
26-Oct	Wednesday	Trade	
27-Oct	Thursday		
28-Oct	Friday	Trade	Quiz #2 Due
31-Oct	Monday	Animal Agriculture	Activity
1-Nov	Tuesday		
2-Nov	Wednesday	Animal Agriculture	Draft Due
3-Nov	Thursday		
4-Nov	Friday	Animal Agriculture	Paper #2 Due
7-Nov	Monday	Debate / Writing Workshop	
8-Nov	Tuesday		
9-Nov	Wednesday		
10-Nov	Thursday		
11-Nov	Friday	Holiday	
14-Nov	Monday	Unintended Consequences	Activity / Discussion #3 Open
15-Nov	Tuesday		
16-Nov	Wednesday	Unintended Consequences	
17-Nov	Thursday		
18-Nov	Friday	Unintended Consequences	
21-Nov	Monday	Water Rights	Activity / Discussion #3 Due
22-Nov	Tuesday		
23-Nov	Wednesday	Break	Break
24-Nov	Thursday	Break	Break
25-Nov	Friday	Break	Break

28-Nov	Monday	Debate	
29-Nov	Tuesday		
30-Nov	Wednesday	Debate	
1-Dec	Thursday		
2-Dec	Friday	Debate	
5-Dec	Monday	Debate	
6-Dec	Tuesday		
7-Dec	Wednesday	Debate	Quiz #3 Due
14-Dec		Final: Paper #3	Paper #3 Due