

Department of Agricultural Food and Resource Economics

Public Policy toward Food Industry - 11:373:323

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AFRE.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is based on the premise that a rational and desirable goal for any society is to develop and maintain a food system that promotes health, protects the environment, is sustainable, and supports the livelihoods of its participants.

The course deals with how governments—particularly that of the United States—design and implement policies and programs to foster social goals such as ensuring a sufficient, nutritionally adequate, safe, affordable, and sustainable food supply. It examines why and how governments do or do not decide to set policies; reviews how stakeholders in the food system become involved in and influence policy development; identifies the social, cultural, economic, and political factors that influence stakeholder and government positions on policy issues; and describes the ways in which these factors promote or act as barriers to policies aimed at promoting public health, agricultural sustainability and the environment.

Throughout the course, students are encouraged to question assumptions and premises and to consider whether food choices should be matters of policy or should be left to individuals. Should governments have a role in food policy? If so, what should that role be?

The course emphasizes analysis of the:

- *Research* and other evidence used as a basis for food policy development.
- *Context* (nutritional, political, economic, cultural, etc.) in which food policies are developed.
- *Processes* through which stakeholders influence policy decisions.
- *Methods* through which government agencies translate policies into regulations and programs.
- *Consequences* (intended and unintended, positive and negative, measurable and not) of policies promoting healthful and sustainable food.

COURSE LEARNING GOALS

1. Define what is meant by policy, and explain how policies differ from programs (farm policy vs farm program)
2. Describe the principal areas of domestic and international nutrition, food, and agriculture policy and the most important current issues related to those policy areas. (Trade and centers of Influence)
3. Identify the government agencies primarily responsible for each area of food and nutrition policy, explain their roles, and describe their principal policy goals and methods for achieving them (Federal Departments and Independent Agencies).
4. Explain what is meant by “food system,” the policy and political issues raised by this term, and the principal stakeholder groups and positions on food system issues (food security, food safety, malnutrition and obesity).
5. Identify the ways in which social, cultural, economic, commercial, and institutional factors promote or act as barriers to the design and implementation of agriculture, food, and nutrition policies and programs, and the ways in which these policies and programs affect health SNAP, WIC...farm bill.
6. Identify and apply the methods by which stakeholder groups affect the design and implementation of agriculture, food, and nutrition policy.

COURSE READINGS

Knutson et.al. *Agriculture and Food Policy* (6th. edition) Pearson, 2007
ISBN: 0-13-171873-8

Other required readings will be posted in our course website: sakai.rutgers.edu. Log on with your netid and password.

Recommended optional texts

- Nestle M. *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health*, 2013.
- Fan S, Pandya-Lorch R, eds. *Reshaping Agriculture for Nutrition and Health*. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- Penson et.al. *Introduction to Agricultural Economics*. Pearson, 2006.

Current events

You are expected to read (in print or online) a national daily newspaper influential in policy matters—for example, the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, or *Washington Post*, and relevant blogs and online sources—as a basis for discussion and analysis of Agriculture, food and nutrition policy events as they occur.

Academic Integrity: Standards of academic conduct are set forth in the University’s Academic Integrity Code. By registering, you have acknowledged your awareness of the Academic Integrity Code, and you are obliged to become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as defined by the Code. Please see me if you have any questions about the academic violations described in the Code, which is available online at: [Policy on Academic Integrity -- Rutgers](#)

Academic Accommodations: Any student with any disability conditions should make me aware of his or her conditions within the first two weeks of the semester.

Students are expected to attend all classes. If you have to miss classes for any reason, please use the University absence reporting system website <http://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra>

Email: Please do not enquire your grade via email. It is the university policy that under no circumstances instructors are permitted to transmit grade via email. All your midterm grades will be made available in the class and on Sakai and the final course grade will be posted on the Rutgers web site within 48 hours after the final exam. When I make announcement in the class, the same information will be posted in Sakai and if you ask for the same information via email, sorry, I will not respond.

Grading: This class will be graded based on three exams and one final paper. Topics for the final paper will be posted on the course website. If you would like to choose a topic other than the recommended topic, the instructor must approve the topic, objectives and analysis. The length of paper should not exceed more than 5 pages, double spaced. All reference materials must be acknowledged at the end of the text following MLA citation style.

Quiz

	Possible points	Percentage weight
Test 1	100	25
Test 2	100	25
Test 3	100	30
Final Paper	100	15
Attendance, participation	100	05
Total	500	100
Grading Scale:		
A = 90 % and above	B+ = 85%-89%	B = 80%-84%
C+ = 75%-79%	C = 70%-74%	D= 65%-69%
F=60%and below		

FOOD POLICY CLASS, READING, AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE
(I reserve the right to alter this course outline during the course of the semester)

CLASS	FOOD POLICY TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS Readings should be <i>completed</i> and ready to discuss by the indicated class date.
1	Introducing Policy Making in the United States	General Theories of Regulation
2	Market structure, market power: antitrust and Regulation.	Chapter 13, <i>Microeconomics</i> , Parkin
3	Market structure, market power: antitrust and Regulation	Chapter 13, <i>Microeconomics</i> , Parkin.
4	Introducing Policy Making in the United States	Chapter 3: policy Making process from <i>Understanding Public Policy</i> .
5	Review	Group formation, topic selection.
6	Forces of Policy Change	Chapter 1: Agriculture and food Policy Instability, Globalization, Technology, Food Safety, Environment.
7		Chapter 1: Agriculture and food Policy, Instability, Globalization Technology, Food Safety, Environment.
8	Rationale for Government Involvement in Agriculture and Food	Chapter 2: Conditions Leading to Government Involvement, Constraints on Government Involvement, Role of Economists
9	Rationale for Government Involvement in Agriculture and Food	Chapter 2: Conditions Leading to Government Involvement, Constraints on Government Involvement, Role of Economists
10	Review Test 1	
11	Test 1	Covers above material.
12	Geopolitical Centers of Influence	Chapter 4: NAFTA, European Union, Cairns Group, APEC, Japan, China, Russia, Developing Countries, Balance of Influence.
13	World Trade Organization	Chapter 5: Theories of trade, Benefits of Trade, Barriers to Trade, World Trade Organization, Policy Evolution
14	U.S. Trade and Development Policy	Chapter 6: Complexities of Trade and Foreign Policy, U.S. Trade and Development Goals and Policies, Developing Market Economies
15	U.S. Farm Policies	Chapter 7: Historical Perspectives: Farm Bills, Farm Problems and Policy Goals, Farm Policy Options and Programs, Assessing the Degree of Market Distortion and Future of Farm Programs
16	U.S. Farm Policies Review: Test 2	Farm Bill: Title II: commodities. One page synopsis of the paper due.
17	Test 2	Covers Chapters 4 – 7.
18	Living with Limited Resources	Chapter 8: Markets as a Limited Resource Allocator, Farmland, Water, Energy, Endangered Species and Biodiversity, Future Role of the Federal Government
19	Environmental Policy	Chapter 9: Limits of Markets in Curbing Pollution, Who Develops and Implements Environmental Policy? Evolution of Agricultural Environmental Policy, Environmental Policy Options and Consequences.
20	Environmental Policy	Chapter 9: Limits of Markets in Curbing Pollution, Who Develops and Implements Environmental Policy? Evolution of Agricultural Environmental Policy, Environmental Policy Options and Consequences.
21	Food Safety and Security Policy	Chapter 10: Dimensions of Food Safety and Biosecurity, Who develops and implements food safety policies,
22	Food Safety and Security Policy	Food labeling, foodborne illnesses

23	Food Assistance and Nutrition Policy	Chapter 11: Problems of Global and U.S. Hunger, International Hunger Policy, U.S. Hunger and Nutrition Policy, Reflecting on the Status of U.S. and Global Nutrition Policy
24	Food Assistance and Nutrition Policy	Chapter 11: Problems of Global and U.S. Hunger, International Hunger Policy, U.S. Hunger and Nutrition Policy, Reflecting on the Status of U.S. and Global Nutrition Policy
25	Future of Agricultural and Food Policy	Chapter 12: Impacts on Constituency Groups, The Future of Agricultural and Food Policy
26	Final Paper Due	Late submission will not be considered.
27	Review test 3	
28	Test 3	Covers chapter 9 -12

Organizations advocating for nutrition and food policies

- Agriculture and Food Policy Center [at Texas A&M](#)
- [California Food Policy Advocates](#)
- Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI): [nutrition policy](#)
- Food First [policy publications](#)
- Food & Water Watch: [policy briefs](#)
- Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale: [obesity policy](#)
- [Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy](#)

U.S. government food and nutrition policy websites

- US House of Representatives. [How our laws are made, 2007](#)
- Office of the Federal Register. [Guide to the rulemaking process](#)
- USDA [Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion](#)
- DHHS [Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#)
- USDA [home page for policy topics](#)
- FDA [food regulation home page](#)
- FTC [regulations and policies](#)
- Congress [legislation](#)
- Congressional Research Reports archived at [National Agricultural Law Center](#)

International food policy organizations

- [Food and Agriculture Organization \(U.N.\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(U.N.\)](#)
- [International Food Policy Research Institute \(IFPRI\)](#)
- United Nations Special Rapporteur on the [right to food](#) (Olivier De Schutter)