

**RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY**  
**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL and BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**  
**Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics**

**COURSE TITLE: Public Policy toward Food Industry**

**COURSE NUMBER:** 11: 373: 323  
**CREDITS:** 3 credits  
**PREREQUISITE:** Pre-calculus or placement test.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Name: Isaac Vellangany, PhD., MBA  
Phone: 848-932-9131  
Email: isaacv@sebs.rutgers.edu  
Class Hours: M -TH 12.35 – 1.55  
Office Hours: M - TH: 2.20Pm – 4.30 PM and by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND:**

A major goal of this course in *Agricultural and Food Policies* is to sharpen your knowledge about the economic issues that impact US Agriculture and Food Markets. Students in this course are primarily juniors and seniors, and consequently the goals are set appropriate to their increased maturity and capacity to take-on advanced work. In this course, you will be expected to exercise leadership and teamwork to both learn the material yourself and to help your fellow students learn alongside you.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

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

1. Why and how governments do or do not decide to set policies,
2. Reviews how stakeholders in the food system become involved in and influence policy development,
3. Identifies the social, cultural, economic, and political factors that influence stakeholder and government positions on policy issues, and
4. Describes the ways in which these factors promote or act as barriers to policies aimed at promoting public health, agricultural sustainability, and the environment.

**Student Learning Goals and Outcome: At the end of the course students will be able to:**

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 WEBSITE, RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:**

- Sakai.rutgers.edu – log in with netid and password.
- Required textbook: Gerald D. Toland, JR., William E. Nganje, and Raphael Onyeaghala, US Agricultural and Food Policies: Economic Choices and Consequences, (1st Edition). Routledge Publishers ([www.routledge.com/cw/toland](http://www.routledge.com/cw/toland)). ISBN: 978-1-138-20829-2

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**Course Requirements**

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Complete all the homework assignment and quizzes as specified below. Attendance is mandatory for this class, except unavoidable circumstances. The grade weights of these requirements are the given in the table below. All assignments are due within the dead-line. Any homework submitted after the due date will not be accepted. If you miss a quiz, you will receive a grade of zero for that quiz. Participation in online discussion is mandatory for this course.

Grade Components	Possible points	Percentage weight
Quiz 1	100	20
Quiz 2	100	20
Quiz 3*	100	20
Online discussion	100	10
Final Presentation and Paper*	100	20
Attendance, participation	100	10
Total	600	100
<b>Grading Scale:</b>		
A = 90 % and above	B+ = 85%-89%	B = 80%-84%
C+ = 75%-79%	C = 70%-74%	D= 61%-69%
F = 60%and below		

**\*to assess students learning goal outcome**

**Attendance:** You are required to attend classes regularly. All homework assignment will be given in the class. You are responsible to get the assignment from others if you are absent on that day. Use university absent reporting system if you are unable to attend the class. Do not email the reasons for your absence. A student may be absent without penalty for 10% of the number of scheduled class meetings during the semester as follows:

**Allowable Absence if class meets:** 1 time/week -2 classes, 2 times/week - 3 classes  
3 times/week - 4 classes. For this class, if you miss more than 3 classes, you are likely to lose 5% of the grade.

### **My Accommodations**

Within the My Accommodations section of Rutgers University website, you will find details on how to manage your [reasonable accommodations](#). If you have not already gone through the approval process, please go to the [Applying for Services](#) section of our site.

**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](#)

**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. I will respond to your weekend email on the first working day after that weekend.

### **FINAL EXAM/PAPER DATE AND TIME**

Online Final exam Schedule: <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>

Do not make travel arrangements during final exam period.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>. The principles of academic integrity require that a student:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others.
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work.
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of impermissible materials or impermissible collaboration.
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.
- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress.

- uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to ensure that

- everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments.
- all student work is fairly evaluated and no student has an inappropriate advantage over others.
- the academic and ethical development of all students is fostered.
- the reputation of the University for integrity in its teaching, research, and scholarship is maintained and enhanced.

Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the University community therefore bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld.

## **STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES**

Just In Case Web App <http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/scarletlisteners>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

### **Outline and Time Schedule for Readings, Term Papers and Exams**

#### **Organization of Topics**

Week 1	Chapter 1	An Introduction to Policy Analysis
Week 2	Chapter 2	Twenty-first Century Trends, Opportunities and Challenges for US Agriculture and Food Systems
Week 3	Chapter 3 - 4	A Policy Analysis Toolbox: Methods to Investigate Agricultural and Food Market Scenarios  Analyzing Economic Consequences of Farm Safety Net Programs in the 2014 Farm Bill
Week 4	Test 1	25 Multiple choice questions and 5 short essay questions
Week 4	Chapter 5	The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA): Evaluating Costs and Benefits
Week 5	Chapter 6 - 7	US Agricultural and Food Sector Connections to the Global Economy
Week 6	Chapter 8 - 9	Analyzing Effects of USDA Nutrition Programs on Hunger and Food Security in the US
Week 7	Test 2	Covers chapters 5 – 8 same format as test 1
Chapter 8		Economic Choices and Outcomes for Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the Environment

Week 8	Chapter 9	Research, Technology and the Growth of Sustainable Agricultural Production
Week 9	Chapter 10	Exploring the Multi-Dimensional Aspects of Food Security
Week 10	Chapter 11	Twenty-first Century Perspectives on Rural Development
Week 11	Chapter 12	Current Developments and New Dynamics Influencing Agricultural and Food Policy
Week 12	Chapter 13	When Policies Work at Cross-Purposes: Addressing Challenges and Pursuing Opportunities
Week 13	Chapter 14	Anticipating Future Trends in Agricultural and Food Policies
Week 14 - 15		Final group presentation
Week 15		Final exam

### **Organizations advocating for food and nutrition 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)