Instructor: Dr. Renata Elad  
Office: 113 Ag Sciences Bld.  
Email: relad@abac.edu  
Office hours: Mon, Wed, Fri: 8:30am - 9:50am  
Mon, Wed: 2:00pm - 4:45pm  
Other times by appointment

Meeting times: TR 0930-1045 in 131 Ag Sci.

Text:  
No text is assigned for this course.  
Reading materials will be assigned/distributed in the class, as needed. Students are also encouraged to use other news media (print or on-line) for practical illustrations of concepts discussed in the class.

Prerequisite:  
Students must have successfully completed 42 credit college-level hours of study and either AECO 2258, ECON 2106, or AECO 1150 with a “C” or better.

Materials:  
Assigned reading material, Notebook, Calculator, writing implements. You will also need access to d2l, and must be familiar with word processing and spreadsheet software.

Note: Students are required to familiarize themselves with the lecture material before each class (see Course Calendar’s assigned reading).

Course Description:  
This course is a survey of the historical development and economic analysis of public programs and/or policies affecting agriculture, food and fiber sector. It surveys U.S. Food and agricultural policy through an analysis of the economic and political forces affecting policy decision-making and the policy instruments that have been and are being used.
Course Philosophy:
So, I trust your intellectual curiosity is such that you are not learning for my sake. Rather, learning should be an interactive and pleasurable experience and a cooperative venture among you, and between you and I, the instructor. Use me as a resource person, I am here for your benefit within and outside of this course. The following list is incomplete, but should help clarify our roles and responsibilities to each other

• Both the Students and the Instructor:
  • Be prepared and on time for class.
  • Treat everyone in the class with respect.

• Instructor:
  • Set clear expectations and provide motivation for students.
  • Select and prepare course materials, and make them readily available to students in a timely fashion.
  • Explain difficult concepts.
  • Guide discussions and labs.
  • Provide fair and prompt feedback and grading.
  • Give students opportunities to provide feedback on the course and listen to their comments and suggestions.

• Students:
  • Study assigned readings before class.
  • Complete all assignments on time.
  • Attend and participate in class and labs.
  • Think for yourself and ask questions.
  • Contribute at least your share to group assignments.
  • Give thoughtful feedback to the instructor on how to improve the course.

Course Outcomes:
By the end of the semester you are expected to be able to accomplish the following:
1. Explain the key economic foundations of policy
2. Describe the interdisciplinary influences on the policy process.
3. Explain the goals behind US agricultural policy.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the history of US agricultural policy.
5. Develop and utilize critical thinking skills.
6. Practice writing, using research resources, and citing references.
**Class Grade:**

Here is the breakdown of the final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test #1</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test #2</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Papers (5)</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments (2) &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grading scale: A = 90 and above; B = 80 - 89.9; C = 70 - 79.9; D = 60 - 69.9; F = 59.9 and below.

**Bonus points**

- Attendance: A perfect attendance record will earn you 5 bonus points towards the final class grade.

**Class policy**

**Hourly Tests**

Everyone is required to take the hourly tests and final exam at the scheduled time. Tests and the final exam have been scheduled in the course outline, to allow you organize your schedule accordingly. There will be no make up exams except for students with absences due to medical reasons or school-sponsored events. Make up tests when justified, will be given at the end of the semester right after the final exam. The final exam is compulsory and failure to take it will result in a failing grade.

For the purpose of clarification, an excused absence is one taken for any of the following reasons: Personal bereavement; justifiable medical reasons (with a doctor's note or letter from parent); ABAC sponsored event; regional natural disaster.

**Class Presentation**

Students will be choose a topic to present in the first 5mins of the Thursday’s class leaving 5mins for Q&A. Topic will be selected from Assignment #1. A random draw will be used to determine the order of presentations. Those unable to present will receive a failing grade unless they can negotiate another spot with an other student. A 2-5 page report of the presentation will be submitted for instructor grades.

**Assignments**

All assignments will be made available throughout the semester in class and on WebCT, with due dates and times specified. Assignments should be submitted at the beginning
of class, uploaded as MS Word® or PDF® attachments on the WebCT “assignment page”, or dropped in my office by the before the deadline. **Multiple documents must be combined into one attachment.** All assignments not in my possession by the deadline will be considered late and **not graded.**

All calculations should be carried out to the final answer suitable for discussion do not leave incomplete answers. Only work in the proper format will be accepted and graded. **Unless specified otherwise, all material submitted to the instructor should be typed using 12 pt font double spacing, on 8.5" by 11" paper, with 1" margins on all sides, and tables presented in MS Excel. Multiple pages should be stapled.** Appropriate material for submission must include the students full name, course name and number, class time, and title for the submission. Incorrectly presented submissions could receive a zero grade or point deductions.

All academic work must meet ABAC’s standards of honesty. Each student is responsible to inform themselves about ABAC’s Code of conduct, as found in the student handbook [http://www.abac.edu/ses/handbook/CodeofConduct.pdf](http://www.abac.edu/ses/handbook/CodeofConduct.pdf), before performing any academic work. Any student displaying academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the work done.

**Class Participation and Attendance**

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College expects all students to conduct themselves in a responsible manner as individuals who understand that they are accountable for the choices they make as students. Class participation is encouraged and can be rewarded. A polite attitude and manner of speech will be expected of all students towards each other and towards the instructor, at all times. **Class participation also means being prepared so students coming to class without the required class materials will be sent out of class.**

No hats or caps will be worn during class in order not to obstruct the view of the instructor or other students. Students caught sleeping in class will be considered absent, and could be expelled from that session. Anyone whose beeper, pager or phone rings during lectures will be asked to leave the first time. **The second time the student will leave and 2pts subtracted from the upcoming test. Late-coming is not permitted and students will be locked out of that class session** (see statement below from the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources)
Special Notice -

Students in Agriculture and Natural Resources

Classroom management is essential to academic success. Anything that disrupts the classroom is detrimental to academic success. Tardy student arrival has become a problem in our classes. Not only is this disruptive, but it is teaching our students that it is acceptable to be late. Employers have no tolerance for late arrivals, nor should ABAC. It is the responsibility of the faculty to simulate workforce expectations to prepare our students to be successful as a professional.

Students will no longer be allowed to enter the classroom late. Tardy is equivalent to absent. There is no excuse. Manage your life to remove all risk of being late to class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The instructor will keep attendance records. Absence from class, for whatever reason, does not excuse a student from full responsibility for class work or assignments missed. Students must accept this responsibility. Whenever a student is absent, excused or not, the student must assume responsibility and provide notice to the instructor in order to make arrangements for any assignments and class work missed because of the absence. However, final approval for make-up work remains with the instructor. Students whose absences are equivalent to more than two weeks of instruction could receive a grade of "F" for the course. A student who stops attending class without officially withdrawing from the course is subject to this attendance policy and will receive the earned grade for the course.

ANY STUDENT IN THIS CLASS WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS SHOULD PLEASE COME SEE ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Chapters to be covered (Assignment are due on Thurs)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 - 22 Aug</td>
<td>Chp 01: The Forces of Policy Change. Lit Search Paper</td>
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<td>1 - 5 Sept</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Chp 02: The Economic Foundations of Policy. Discussion Paper #1</td>
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<td>8 - 12 Sept</td>
<td>Chp 03: The Policy Process.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>15 - 19 Sept</strong></td>
<td><strong>Test I: September 18</strong>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Chp 1 - 3 Discussion Paper #2</td>
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<td>22 - 26 Sept</td>
<td>Chp 04: International Trade Issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Sep - 3 Oct</td>
<td>Chp 04: International Trade Issues. Economic Analysis Paper</td>
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<td>6 - 10 Oct</td>
<td>Midterm withdrawal deadline</td>
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<td>Chp 05: A Historical Perspective on Agricultural Policy.</td>
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<td>13 - 17 Oct</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
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<td>Chp 05: A Historical Perspective on Agricultural Policy. Discussion Paper #3</td>
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<td>27 - 31 Oct</td>
<td>Chp 06: Domestic Agricultural Policy. Discussion Paper #4</td>
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<td><strong>3 - 7 Nov</strong></td>
<td><strong>Test II: November 6</strong>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Chp 4-6</td>
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<td>10 - 14 Nov</td>
<td>Chp 07: Food Quality and Safety. Discussion Paper #5</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 - 21 Nov</td>
<td>Chp 07: Food Quality and Safety Policy.</td>
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<td>24 - 28 Nov</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>Chp 08: Food Assistance and Nutrition Policy. Policy Statement Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 - 3 Dec</td>
<td>Chp 08: Food Assistance and Nutrition Policy.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4 - 9 Dec</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final Exams and Make-up Tests</strong>: See College Calendar for details</td>
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I have read the course syllabus for AECS 4710 and, therefore, understand my responsibilities for the course include:

☐ Timely attendance at each scheduled class meeting.
☐ Regular and active participation in class discussions and Q&A’s.
☐ Regular and active participation in all student discussion groups.
☐ Timely submission of all assigned work (homework and presentations).
☐ Timely participation and completion of all graded work.
☐ Preparedness for each class meeting by completing assigned reading.
☐ Abidance by general class policies as stated unless otherwise modified.

Student Name (Print)__________________________________________

Signed:________________________                  Date:______________________

Comments:________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________