

**Agribusiness Management (AGBM) 430, Fall 2023**  
**U.S. Food and Agricultural Policy**

Tu/Th 10:35 – 11:50 AM  
Room 127 Moore Bldg

**Instructor:** Dr. Edward (Ted) Jaenicke, [tjaenicke@psu.edu](mailto:tjaenicke@psu.edu)

**Office Hours:** In person (Room 208B Armsby) or Zoom (<https://psu.zoom.us/j/5075751844>):  
Tuesdays 4:30 to 5:30pm and Wednesdays 4:00 to 5:00pm, and by appointment

**Learning Objectives:**

- A. Upon successful completion of the course, students will demonstrate an understanding of (i) specific food and agricultural policies and (ii) the underlying issues and problems that the policies target.
- B. Students will demonstrate an understanding of, and put into practice, four tools for policy analysis:
  - Institutional knowledge and history,
  - Economics, and
  - Contemporary data sources, and
  - Statistical models to evaluate policies.

**Course Overview:** This course offers a broad introduction to food and agricultural policies in the United States. Food and agricultural policies encompass laws, regulations, decisions, and actions by governments, industry, and other institutions that influence food production, distribution, and consumption. The course will introduce students to the underlying issues or problems that food policies are trying to address, as well as how food policy is made and evaluated. This list of topics includes the following

- An overview of the U.S. food system
- Crop subsidies, insurance, and other agricultural production policies
- Farm labor and immigration policies
- Agro-environmental policies
- Tariffs, quotas, and other agricultural trade policies
- Food manufacturing, antitrust, and agricultural marketing policies
- Organic agriculture: national organic standards
- Animal welfare standards
- Food safety policies
- Food labeling and advertising
- Dietary guidance
- Food insecurity and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Child nutrition programs
- Food deserts and policies affecting access to healthy food
- Food waste: Sell-by dates and other policies.

**Required Course Materials:**

- A. Textbook: Wilde, Parke. *Food Policy in the United States* Routledge, 2nd edition (March 7, 2018). Available in the Penn State Bookstore and on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Policy-United-States-Earthscan-Agriculture-dp-1138204005/dp/1138204005/>)
- B. Online readings and videos, with links provided via Canvas. <http://canvas.psu.edu>:

### *Class Expectations and Notes:*

1. This class requires attendance and participation (worth 10% of the final grade).
2. Each week will feature a chapter from the Wilde textbook and perhaps some other be short reading assignments, and each week students will be required to answer a small number of questions from the readings due Wednesday nights.
3. There will be four major homework assignments. Each will feature data associated with an agricultural or food policy and student-based analysis of that data. The instructor will provide data links and specific questions for students to answer.
4. There will be both a midterm and a final exam.

### *Assignments and Gradable Events:*

<i>% of Grade</i>	<i>Assignment/ Gradable Event</i>	<i>Individual or Team</i>	<i>Description</i>
20	Weekly reading assignments.	Individual	Students will be assessed weekly to make sure they have read class materials and are prepared for class discussion. These assessments will be due before Thursday's class.
10	Class attendance and participation.	Individual	Students will be regularly assessed on attendance and the quality of class participation.
30	Homework assignments. (Four)	Individual	The instructor will provide links to publicly available data and specific questions for students to answer and analyze with the help of the data and other background readings.
20	Midterm	Individual	Most likely, the midterm will be "take home" and feature (short) essay questions.
20	Final (Check with LionPath for the date)	Individual	The final will be in a classroom and feature (short) essay questions.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle.

According to Penn State policy [G-9: Academic Integrity](#), an academic integrity violation is "an intentional, unintentional, or attempted violation of course or assessment policies to gain an academic advantage or to advantage or disadvantage another student academically." Unless your instructor tells you otherwise, you must complete all course work entirely on your own, using only sources that have been permitted by your instructor, and you may not assist other students with papers, quizzes, exams, or other assessments. If your instructor allows you to use ideas, images, or word phrases created by another person (e.g., from Course Hero or Chegg) or by generative technology, such as ChatGPT, you must identify their source. You may not submit false or fabricated information, use the same academic work for credit in multiple courses, or share instructional content. Students with questions about academic integrity should ask their instructor **before submitting work**.

**Students facing allegations of academic misconduct may not drop/withdraw from the affected course** unless they are cleared of wrongdoing (see [G-9: Academic Integrity](#)). Attempted drops will be prevented or reversed, and students will be expected to complete course work and meet course deadlines. Students who are found responsible for academic integrity

violations face academic outcomes, which can be severe, and put themselves at jeopardy for other outcomes which may include ineligibility for Dean's List, pass/fail elections, and grade forgiveness. Students may also face consequences from their home/major program and/or The Schreyer Honors College.

***Disability Accommodation:*** Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. Student Disability Resources (SDR) website provides [contact information for every Penn State campus](http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/disability-coordinator) (<http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/disability-coordinator>). For further information, please visit [Student Disability Resources website](http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/) (<http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/>).

To receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: [See documentation guidelines](http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/guidelines) (<http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/guidelines>). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus disability services office will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodations.

***Counseling and Psychological Services Statement:*** Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional wellbeing. The university offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a philosophy respectful of clients' cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to differences in race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation.

[Counseling and Psychological Services at University Park \(CAPS\)](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/)  
(<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/>): 814-863-0395

Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week): 877-229-6400  
Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week): Text LIONS to 741741

***Educational Equity/Report Bias:*** Consistent with University Policy AD29, students who believe they have experienced or observed a hate crime, an act of intolerance, discrimination, or harassment that occurs at Penn State are urged to report these incidents as outlined on the University's Report Bias webpage (<http://equity.psu.edu/reportbias/>).

**AG BM 430, Course Schedule Fall Semester 2023 (subject to change)**

<b>Week (Dates)</b>	<b>Topics/Gradable Events</b>	<b>Readings/Notes</b>
1. Aug. 22, 24	An overview of the U.S. food and agricultural system	☐ Wilde, Ch 1, Making Food Policy in the U.S.
2. Aug. 29, 31	Farm Bill 2023-2024 <b>NO in-person class</b> Online (graded) discussion post	☐ Start reading Wilde, Ch 2, Agriculture
3. Sept. 5, 7	Crop subsidies, insurance, and other agricultural production policies	☐ Wilde, Ch 2, Agriculture ☐ AEI critique of farm subsidies ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dmh28Tylago&amp;t=85s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dmh28Tylago&amp;t=85s</a> )
4. Sept. 12, 14	Farm labor and immigration policies	☐ Zahniser et al., "Farm Labor Markets in the United States and Mexico Pose Challenges for U.S. Agriculture" USDA-ERS, Nov. 2018 ( <a href="https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=90831">https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=90831</a> )
5. Sept. 19, 21	Agro-environmental policies <b>HW1 Due Mon., Sept. 18</b>	☐ Wilde, Ch 3, Food Production and the Environment
6. Sept. 26, 28	Food and agricultural trade	☐ Wilde, Ch 4, Food and Agricultural Trade
7. Oct. 3, 5	Food manufacturing	☐ Wilde, Ch 5, Food Manufacturing ☐ Kaufman, Dan. "Is It Time to Break Up Big Ag?" <i>The New Yorker</i> , Aug. 17, 2021
8. Oct. 10, 12	National organic standards and other marketing policies <b>HW2 Due Fri., Oct. 13</b>	☐ Rachel Cernansky, National Geographic, "We don't have enough organic farms. Why not?", Nov. 20, 2018. ( <a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/organic-farming-crops-consumers">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/organic-farming-crops-consumers</a> ) ☐ CNBC, Is Organic Food Really Worth It? Sept. 21, 2021: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LAFIDR56Sw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LAFIDR56Sw</a>
9. Oct. 17, 19	Animal welfare standards <b>Midterm (take home), Thurs., Oct. 20</b>	☐ Kenny Torrella's 2021 Vox article, "The fight over cage-free eggs and bacon in California, explained." ☐ Kelsey Piper's 2019 Vox article, "Egg-laying hens live in horrific conditions. Washington state just passed a law to change that."
10. Oct. 24, 26	Food deserts and policies affecting access to healthy food	☐ Wilde, Ch 6, Food Retailing and Restaurants ☐ Other video-based materials
11. Oct 31, Nov 2	Food safety policies	☐ Wilde, Ch 7, Food Safety
12. Nov. 7, 9	Dietary guidance and health	☐ Wilde, Ch 8, Dietary Guidance and Health ☐ U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025. 9th Edition. December 2020. Ch 1, Introduction, pp 1-14.
13. Nov. 14, 16	Food Labeling and advertising <b>HW3 Due Mon., Nov. 13</b>	☐ Wilde, Ch 9, Food Labeling and Advertising
<i>Nov. 20-24</i>		
<i>Thanksgiving Break – No Classes</i>		
14. Nov. 28, 30	Food assistance and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	☐ Wilde, Ch 10, Hunger and Food Insecurity ☐ Wilde, Ch 11, Nutrition Assist. Programs for Children
15. Dec. 5, 7	Food waste and policy solutions <b>HW4 Due Mon., Dec. 4</b>	☐ PBS News Hour, "Why does almost half of America's food go to waste?" June 2015: <a href="#">Why does almost half of America's food go to waste?</a> ☐ CBC Market Place, "Food waste: How much food do supermarkets throw away?": <a href="#">Food waste: How much food do supermarkets throw away? (CBC Marketplace</a>
<b>Posted Fri. Dec. 8, Due Mon. Dec. 11</b>		
<b>Take Home Final Exam!!</b>		

