

Orientation: Syllabus

Course Information

ECON 460/560: Ag, Food, and Trade Policy (3 credits)

Fall 2020

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 2:15 – 3:05pm

Class Location: Lagomarcino 1411

Prerequisites: Econ 301 or 501.

Lead Instructor

Dr. Chad Hart

Professor/Extension Economist

Email: chart@iastate.edu

Office Hours: MWF 1 – 2pm or by appointment

Office Location: 478F Heady Hall

Office Phone: 515-294-9911

The information in this syllabus is subject to change in extenuating circumstances. Changes to the course syllabus will be provided in writing and announced via course-wide announcements.

[Back to top](#)

Course Format

The course will be a mixture of in-person and online instruction. As this course covers a wide array of policy topics, we have assembled a team of experts to lead the class discussions on the various topics. Some of these experts come from other universities and institutions and thus, their sessions will be completely online. Other sessions will be lead by ISU faculty and will be a mix of in-person and online instruction. Each instructor has the flexibility to create and administer assignments and quizzes. The grading policy is discussed below. All lecture notes, assignments, readings, and assorted class materials will be posted to the course Canvas site.

[Back to top](#)

Course Goals

To understand the economic and legal intuition and ramifications of agricultural, food, and trade policy. While our primary focus will be on current policy structures, we will also explore the evolution of government policies and the interactions with multinational organizations, such as the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund.

[Back to top](#)

Course Materials

We will use a collection of articles and information files, available in electronic format through Canvas, to achieve our course goals. No textbook is required for this course.

We will use the course Canvas site to post all class materials, including readings, handouts, assignments and grades. It is the student's responsibility to access Canvas on a regular basis.

[Back to top](#)

Course Structure

The course is divided into six subject areas, with some areas having multiple modules. Each area will have roughly two weeks of dedicated class time. The six areas, with the modules listed below, are:

- Introduction, Tools, and USDA Information
 - Module 1: Introduction and Tools
 - Module 2: USDA Information
- Cooperatives and Legal Background for Ag Policy
 - Module 3: Cooperatives
 - Module 4: Legal Background
- Ag, Food, and Nutrition Policies
 - Module 5: Checkoffs and Marketing Orders
 - Module 6: Food Labeling
 - Module 7: Nutrition Policies
- Conservation and Income Support Policies
 - Module 8: Public Investment
 - Module 9: Conservation Policies
 - Module 10: Income Support Policies
- Trade Policies and Agreements
 - Module 11: Trade and International Ag Policies

- Module 12: Trade Agreements
- Module 13: Currency and Financial Issues
- Additional Farm Bill/Farm Policy Topics
 - Module 14: Rural Development
 - Module 15: Crop Insurance
 - Module 16: Bioenergy

[Back to top](#)

Evaluation and Grading Components

For Econ 460, your course grade will be based on the following:

- Midterm Exam – 10%
- Final Exam – 10%
- Assignments and Content Quizzes before the Midterm – 37%
- Assignments and Content Quizzes after the Midterm – 37%
- Contact Quizzes – 6%

For Econ 560, your course grade will be based on the following:

- Midterm Exam – 10%
- Final Exam – 10%
- Assignments and Content Quizzes before the Midterm – 32%
- Assignments and Content Quizzes after the Midterm – 32%
- Contact Quizzes – 6%
- Class Project – 10%

Exams (2): In this course, you are required to complete two online examinations, via the class Canvas site: one (1) midterm and one (1) final exam.

- Exam 1 (midterm) will cover Modules 1-7 and is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30th at 2:15pm.
- Exam 2 (final) will cover Modules 8-16 and is scheduled for Wednesday, November 25th at 12:00pm.

Each exam is worth 10 percent of your final grade.

Contact Quizzes (42): Given the unique circumstances this semester and the need to possibly perform contact tracing, you will be asked to fill out a very brief online quiz, via Canvas, each class session. In the quiz, you will note whether you attended the class in person and, if so, what seat did you sit. Attendance is not required for the course, but it is highly recommended. If you are not attending the class session in person for the session, you should still fill out the quiz. Please answer the quiz truthfully. Your grade will not be based on your attendance record. Full credit will be given

to students who fill out all of the contact quizzes. Partial credit will be given to students who fill out any of the contact quizzes, with the credit being proportional to the number of quizzes completed.

Assignments and Content Quizzes (to be announced): With several instructors participating in the course, it makes sense to have some flexibility in the grading and assignment structure. Each instructor has been given the latitude to construct and administer assignments and/or quizzes as they see fit. While many of these assignments can and will be conducted on Canvas, there may be a few assignments that must be handled in person and in class. All assignment and content quiz grades will be posted in the Canvas gradebook within 5 days of their submission.

Class Project (for Econ 560 only): For those seeking class credit for Econ 560, the student and lead instructor will meet, sometime before September 18, to determine a class project that is due at the time of the final exam for the course. The project will consist of the construction of an original fact sheet and/or decision tool of a government policy or the review and revision of several fact sheets and/or decision tools for government policies. The choice of the government policies within the project will be by mutual consent of the student and the lead instructor.

Missed and late coursework: It is important to keep up with the pace of this course. If you miss the due date on an assignment, you will have the opportunity to submit the work, but at reduced credit. For each day the assignment is late, 10% of the potential points will be taken. So, for example, if you turn in an assignment worth 80 points two days after the due date, the maximum points you can receive from the work is 64 points. If the assignment is turned in ten or more days after the due date, no credit will be given.

Grade Appeal Process: If you become concerned about your instructor's class management, please communicate your concerns with your instructor. Concerns sometimes relate to grading methods, assignments turnaround time, and course policies, as examples. If you feel uncomfortable speaking with your instructor, contact Amy Brandau <abrandau@iastate.edu>. Before you decide to appeal, check out ISU's academic appeal process.

[Back to top](#)

ISU Syllabus Statements

COVID-19 Health and Safety Requirements: Students are responsible for abiding by the university's COVID-19 health and safety expectations. All students attending this class in-person are required to follow university policy regarding health, safety, and face coverings:

- wear a cloth face covering in all university classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other in-person instructional settings and learning spaces. Cloth face coverings are additionally required to be worn indoors in all university buildings, and outdoors when other people are or may be present where physical distancing of at least 6 feet from others is not possible. Students with a

documented health or medical condition that prevents them from wearing a cloth face covering should consult with Student Accessibility Services in the Dean of Students Office.

- ensure that the cloth face covering completely covers the nose and mouth and fits snugly against the side of the face.
- practice physical distancing to the extent possible.
- assist in maintaining a clean and sanitary environment.
- not attend class if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- not attend class if you have been told to self-isolate or quarantine by a health official.
- follow the instructor's guidance with respect to these requirements. Failure to comply constitutes disruptive classroom conduct. Faculty and teaching assistants have the authority to deny a non-compliant student entry into a classroom, laboratory, studio, conference room, office, or other learning space.

These requirements extend outside of scheduled class time, including coursework in laboratories, studios, and other learning spaces, and to field trips. These requirements may be revised by the university at any time during the semester.

In accordance with university policy, instructors may use a face shield while they are teaching as long as they are able to maintain 8 feet of physical distance between themselves and students during the entire instructional period. Some form of face covering must be worn at all times in learning spaces regardless of the amount of physical distancing.

Faculty may refer matters of non-compliance to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action, which can include restrictions on access to, or use of, university facilities; removal from university housing; required transition to remote-only instruction; involuntary disenrollment from one or more in-person courses; and other such measures as necessary to promote the health and safety of campus.

It is important for students to recognize their responsibility in promoting the health and safety of the Iowa State University community, through actions both on- and off-campus. The university's faculty asks that you personally demonstrate a commitment to our Cyclones Care campaign. Iowa State University's faculty support the Cyclones Care campaign and ask you personally to demonstrate a commitment to our campaign. Your dedication and contribution to the campaign will also protect your family, classmates, and friends, as well as their friends and families. Our best opportunity for a successful fall semester with in-person learning and extramural activities requires all of us to collaborate and fully participate in the Cyclones Care campaign.

Classroom Disruptions: At the discretion of the instructor, disruptive conduct includes a single serious incident or persistent conduct that unreasonably interrupts, impedes, obstructs, and/or interferes with the educational process. Disruptive conduct may be physical and/or expressive in nature and may occur in person or in a virtual setting. Examples of disruptive conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following: speaking without being recognized, interrupting, or talking over others; arrival to class late or leaving early without instructor permission; the use of technology, such as cell phones, computers, or other devices, without instructor permission, particularly in uses

unrelated to course content; creation of loud or distracting noises either carelessly or with intent to disrupt; eating, sleeping, or carrying out other personal activities in class that are unrelated to course content without instructor permission; non-protected malicious or harassing or bullying speech or actions directed at instructors or students, such as personal insults, ad hominem attacks, name-calling, other abusive or ridiculing comments, or threats; gratuitous use of cursing/expletives or other speech that is not relevant to class discussion; inappropriate physical contact or threats of inappropriate physical contact directed at instructors or students; refusal to comply with instructor's request for appropriate conduct. Should any student engage in disruptive conduct as defined here, the instructor has the authority to respond to the disruption immediately and through a progression of remedial steps, ranging from calling the student's attention, to removal from class, to calling ISU Police Department or 911.

Academic Dishonesty: The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

Accessibility Statement: Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to work directly with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification Letter for each course listing approved reasonable accommodations. This document will be made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and are not intended to be an unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu, by contacting SAS staff by email at accessibility@iastate.edu, or by calling 515-294-7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit in the Dean of Students Office located at 1076 Student Services Building.

Discrimination and Harassment: Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, Hotline 515-294-1222, email eooffice@iastate.edu.

Religious Accommodation: Iowa State University welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request the reasonable accommodation for religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing. The instructor will review the situation in

an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course. For students, you should first discuss the conflict and your requested accommodation with your professor at the earliest possible time. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office at 515-294-1020 or the Office of Equal Opportunity at 515-294-7612.

Contact Information for Academic Issues: If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu.

[Back to top](#)