

**AECN/ASCI 482**  
**Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars Program: Policy**

Departments of Agricultural Economics and Animal Science  
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Spring 2018

**Course Details**

AECN/ASCI 482, Section 001  
Credit Hours: 1  
Monday, 3:00 - 4:50 p.m.  
Filley Hall 210

Prerequisite: Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars Program, ASCI 395 or equivalent, and ASCI 481

**Contact Information**

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**Course Objectives**

This course is designed to prepare Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars program participants to be leaders in the beef industry in addressing important public policy issues. The course objectives are to:

- Identify, analyze, and understand public policy issues affecting the beef industry.
- Attend and participate in the Cattle Industry Convention to observe and gain knowledge of the policy making process within a beef industry organization and policy stakeholder group.
- Understand public policy development and decision-making processes in various policy arenas.
- Identify and understand different policy stakeholder groups in the beef industry and their values, principles, and preferences.
- Develop appropriate policy action strategies to address public policy issues relevant to the beef industry.

## Course Materials

The course does not have a textbook. It will rely on regular readings from popular press, trade journals, academic studies, government reports, and other resources. The readings, or links to the readings, will be available on Canvas at *my.unl.edu*.

## Course Evaluation

Grades will be assigned based on a weighted average of each student's performance in the following areas:

Discussion and participation in class	20%
Participation in the Cattle Industry Convention	20%
Individual written assignments	20%
Individual report on policy issue analysis	20%
Team report and presentation on policy action strategy	20%

Letter grades for the course will be assigned according to the following schedule:

<u>Weighted Average Score</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Weighted Average Score</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
97-100	A+	77-79	C+
93-96	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
		0-59	F

Discussion and Participation. A key part of the course will focus on participation in class discussions of the various public policy issues affecting the beef industry. Students' grades will reflect their effort to be involved in the discussions and their contributions to those discussions. Meaningful participation in this course includes 1) responding to relevant policy questions posed by the instructor or by other students; 2) contributing questions that generate meaningful discussion by others in the class; 3) providing useful information or other resources relevant to a policy issue addressed in class; or 4) discussing the relevant policy developments of the day at the state, national, or international level.

Participation in the Cattle Industry Convention. Students are required to attend and participate in the Cattle Industry Convention. This year's annual convention will be in Phoenix, Arizona on January 31 – February 2. The convention and accompanying trade show gives students an opportunity to observe and participate in meetings of education, marketing, and policy committees as well as visits with various industry participants and representatives. Students will be responsible for participating fully in the educational sessions, committee meetings, and other opportunities and will be responsible for reporting their experiences and findings to the class.

Individual Written Assignments. The written assignments will include various opportunities for students to explore and analyze policy issues. Some assignments will ask students to research and examine the scope of policy issues. Other assignments may ask students to research and develop brief reports on various policy issues or policy stakeholders.

Individual Report and Discussion of Policy Issue Analysis. Students will prepare an individual report on an assigned policy issue selected from class discussion, supplemental reading, and policy issues addressed

at the Cattle Industry Convention. The report will analyze the policy issue, the potential policy alternatives and consequences, and the student's policy recommendation. The report will be presented as part of a class exercise with other reports on the policy issue for the consideration of the entire class.

Team Report and Presentation on Policy Action Strategy. A team report and presentation will be prepared to identify and present a strategy for policy action on a selected policy issue taken from the issues and policy recommendations discussed and reported in class.

Attendance. Regular attendance is expected and is necessary to perform well in the discussion and participation section of the course. Students are responsible for knowing the material presented and discussed during the class meetings and on Blackboard. Any student who cannot attend a class meeting is expected to obtain all of the class materials, readings, assignments from Blackboard and obtain any notes from fellow classmates.

## **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to adhere to guidelines concerning academic dishonesty outlined in Section 4.2 of University's Student Code of Conduct (<http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/>). Students are encouraged to contact the instructor for clarification of these guidelines if they have questions or concerns. The Department of Agricultural Economics has a written policy defining academic dishonesty, the potential sanctions for incidents of academic dishonesty, and the appeal process for students facing potential sanctions. The Department also has a policy regarding potential appeals of final course grades. These policies are available for review on the department's website: (<http://agecon.unl.edu/undergraduate>).

In this course, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and any student directly or indirectly involved in any form of academic dishonesty related to the class may receive a grade of "F" for the assignment, the quiz or exam, or the course.

## **Special Needs**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

## **Emergency Response**

The following is provided for student information in the event of an emergency:

Fire Alarm (or other evacuation) - In the event of a fire alarm: Gather belongings (purse, keys, cellphone, N-Card, etc.) and use the nearest exit to leave the building. Do not use the elevators. After exiting notify emergency personnel of the location of persons unable to exit the building. Do not return to building unless told to do so by emergency personnel.

Tornado Warning - When sirens sound, move to the lowest interior area of building or designated shelter. Stay away from windows and stay near an inside wall when possible.

### Active Shooter

- Evacuate - If there is a safe escape path, leave belongings behind, keep hands visible and follow police officer instructions.
- Hide out - If evacuation is impossible secure yourself in your space by turning out lights, closing blinds and barricading doors if possible.
- Take action - As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter.

UNL Alert - Notifications about serious incidents on campus are sent via text message, email, unl.edu website, and social media. For more information go to: <http://unlalert.unl.edu>.

Additional Emergency Procedures - Additional information is posted on Blackboard in the Information folder for AECN 482 as well as at [http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency\\_Procedures\\_Quicklist.pdf](http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency_Procedures_Quicklist.pdf).

## **Course Schedule**

The course will meet from 3:00 - 4:50 p.m. on scheduled Mondays. This allows time for class discussion of multiple and complex policy issues that can't always be completed in 1 hour and recognizes that we will not be meeting every week of the semester due to travel and instructor conflicts. There will not be a final exam, but final reports will be due and presented on April 23.

The tentative schedule for the semester is below, with guest speakers identified and tentatively scheduled. These plans are subject to change, but this provides some planning for the semester:

January 8 - Session 1 Introductory discussion Pete McClymont, Nebraska Cattlemen Assignment #1 – due online January 19	March 5 – Instructor travel – No class meeting
January 15 - MLK Day - No class meeting	March 12 – Session 5 Policy analysis reports and discussion Assignment #3 – due online March 16
January 22 – Instructor travel - No class meeting	March 19 – Spring Break – No class meeting
January 29 – Session 2 Lecture 1 Assignment #1 review Trip logistics and discussion Assignment #2 – due online February 9	March 26 – Session 6 Tom Field, Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program (invited) Laura Field, Nebraska Cattlemen (invited)
January 31 – February 3 Class trip to 2017 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show	April 2 - Session 7 Policy analysis reports and discussion Assignment #3 review Dawn Caldwell, Nebraska Beef Council (invited)
February 5 – No class meeting	April 9 – Instructor travel – No class meeting
February 12 – Instructor travel – No class meeting	April 16 – Session 8 Policy strategy development and discussion Terry Hejny, Nebraska LEAD Program (invited)
February 19 - Session 3 Lecture 2 Assignment #2 review	April 23 - Session 9 - Final class meeting Team policy strategy reports and presentations (NBIS faculty invited)
February 26 – Session 4 Lecture 3 National policy issues and policy analysis	