I. TITLE: Agricultural Policy

II. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION: The history, principles, setting objectives and means of policy as applied to agriculture in our society.

III. PURPOSE: This course is intended for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. In order to understand contemporary domestic farm policy students will study the process of policy formation, the macroeconomics of agriculture, the international agricultural economic and policy environment, and the fundamental economic relationships and principles that affect today’s agriculture. Then current farm policies will be studied, along with other contemporary issues such as price controls, nutrition policy, food safety, farm labor and environmental concerns. Emphasis is placed upon developing an understanding of the problems, policy alternatives, and their consequences.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course recognizes that policy formulation involves a blending of economics and politics. Therefore, general economic policies (such as monetary policies) will be part of the course because of their influence on farm income. More specific objectives are:

1. To understand the policy setting for food and agriculture policy.
2. To understand the role of general economic policy and international trade.
3. To develop an understanding of “the farm problem” and why it exists.
4. To study contemporary options for domestic farm policy.
5. To study food price policy and other contemporary issues.
6. To study the impact of agricultural and food policy on agribusiness.

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:
1. The process of developing food and agricultural policy.
2. The impact of international trade and macroeconomic policy on production agriculture and agribusiness.
3. Domestic farm and resource policy – issues and alternatives.
4. Policies for consumers, rural development, and agribusiness.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

A. Students will complete assignments and participate in large and small group discussions and activities. Participation includes active listening, contributing to group discussions, and working on in-class activities.

B. Student-initiated activities include preparation for and participation in class lectures, discussions, and cooperative activities related to course goals and objectives, including:
   1. Reading assigned materials and identifying pertinent questions and concerns.
   2. Completing review and study question assignments.
   3. Participating in group discussions and cooperative activities.
   4. Performing successfully on exams and written assignments.
   5. Attending class on a punctual and regular basis.

VII. FIELD, CLINICAL AND LABORATORY EXPERIENCES
Communication with the instructor via Blackboard for those enrolled in class.

VIII. RESOURCES
1. Personal computer with printer and web access
2. See XII for text information

IX. GRADING PROCEDURES
Hour exams = 100 pts each. Count best 2 out of 3 exams 200 pts
Cases = 25 pts each. Count best 4 case scores 100 pts.
Quizzes = 20 pts each. Count top 5 quiz scores 100 pts
Attendance is taken each day. Missing class for any reason results in a 10 point deduction. 100 pts.
Final exam is comprehensive 100 pts.
Total 600 pts
Grading Scale:
A = 90-100% NOTE: Graduate students will give oral
B = 80-89% reports on 5 supplemental readings
C = 70-79% assigned by the instructor.
D = 60-69%
F = < 60%

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY
See the current issue of the Murray State University Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletins for academic regulations concerning attendance. Points missed because of absences for any reason can be made up by preparing a two-page paper on a topic assigned by the instructor.
XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY
See the current issue of the Murray State University Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletins for academic regulations concerning academic honesty. In addition, the School of Agriculture has a set of guidelines for academic honesty, which may be obtained from the agriculture department secretary.

XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES

XIII. PREREQUISITES
1. Junior, senior or graduate student classification.
2. AGR 130 or equivalent
3. The use of mouth tobacco is strictly forbidden during class time.
4. Baseball caps will be tolerated but large brimmed hats are not permitted.
5. During exams and quizzes caps are to be removed or cap bills are to be turned backwards.