

Department: Agricultural and Resource Economics

Course number: 2610W

Course title: Writing in Food Policy

Credits: 1

Contact Person: Marilyn Altobello

Q/W: W

Catalog Copy: ARE 261W: Writing in Food Policy. Either Semester. One credit. Prerequisite: ENGL 110 or 111 or 250. Corequisite: ARE 260. A writing intensive course on issues related to food policy, integrated with course content in ARE 260. Open to Resource Economics majors. Others by consent. Not open to students who have passed ARE 260W.

Justification: ARE 261W is currently one of two courses in writing for the Resource Economics major. The existing ARE 260 and ARE 260W have been taught comingled in the past. The action proposed here is to drop ARE260W and replace it with the one credit ARE 261W, which students will take as a corequisite along with the 3-credit ARE 260. This will allow more intensive instruction in writing, more personal attention to each student, and better monitoring of each student's progress in developing writing skills. As resources permit, the proposed action may also allow the teaching of multiple W sections in one semester to better meet student demand for W courses, both within ARE and in other departments as well given that additional instructors are added for each section.

W Criteria:

(1) The writing assignments will allow students to enhance learning the content of ARE 260 (which must be taken concurrently with ARE 261W) by requiring them to select a food policy issue or problem of their choice and analyze and evaluate it according to policy evaluation criteria presented in ARE 260. There will be three writing assignments: Prospectus, First Draft, and Final Draft. The final paper will be a minimum of 17 pages, at least 15 of which must be text. The grading for ARE 261W will be as follows: Prospectus(10%); First Draft (25%); Final Draft (65%).

(2) Modes of writing instruction will include formal in-class instruction, one-on-one meetings with students, use of UConn Writing Center, and written and oral comments provided by the instructor.

(3) There will be three writing assignments, and each will build upon the one before it, and the end result will be a 15-page (minimum) final paper. The first assignment (Prospectus-Due end of week 4) is a 3-5 page paper proposal outlining the student's topic and approach. This will be reviewed by the instructor and returned to the student with comments and corrections. The second assignment (First Draft-Due end of week 8) is a development and expansion of the

student's paper proposal into a 17 page (minimum) first draft. This will be reviewed by the instructor and returned to the student with comments and corrections. The third assignment (Final Draft) consists of the final paper (also a minimum of 17 pages, at least 15 of which must be text) which is a refinement of the First Draft and incorporates instructor comments provided on the First Draft. The final paper is due the last day of class. Each assignment will be evaluated for relevance, content, problem formulation, organization, structure, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and clarity.

(4) The syllabus will include the F-clause: Students taking ARE 261W must enroll concurrently in ARE 260, and failure to complete the written work satisfactorily will result in a grade of F for both ARE 260 and ARE 261W.

Supplementary Information:

Syllabus:

ARE 2610W

FOOD POLICY

Instructor: Rigoberto A. Lopez

Teaching Assistant: Rebecca Cleary, 326 W.B. Young Building

Course Objective: The purpose of this one credit class is to train students in scientific writing on issues related to food policy. In order to receive credit, this class must be taken concurrently with ARE 260.

Grading:

Prospectus	10%
First Draft:	25%
Final Draft:	65%

*Students enrolled in ARE 261W must take the same midterm and final examinations as students enrolled in ARE 260. Students in ARE 261W will get the same grade in ARE 260 and 261W with half of the grade coming from examinations and half from the written work in ARE 261W. Failure to complete the written work satisfactorily will result in a grade of F for both ARE 260 and ARE 260W. See also the attached criteria for grading a paper.

Lecture Schedule:

Week 1: Academic scholarship; value of reference sources.

- Week 2: Meeting at the Library – Electronic Classroom.
- Week 3: Meeting at the Library – Electronic Classroom
- Week 4: Appointment to discuss individual topics.
- Week 5: Prospectus due.
- Week 6: Quoting, paraphrasing and plagiarism.
- Week 7: Scientific citation.
- Week 8: Discussion of prospectus (individual).
- Week 9: First Draft Due.
- Week 10: Discussion of first draft papers (individual).
- Week 11: Discussion of first draft papers (individual).
- Week 12: Discussion of first draft, collective.
- Week 13: Selected PowerPoint presentations by volunteers
- Week 14: Final paper due and wrap-up.

Term Paper Guidelines:

One paper of 17 double-spaced, typed pages. At least 15 pages must be text. The paper will be written in four steps:

Step 1: Select a topic: Each student should begin to identify the paper topics immediately. Students should select a topic that (a) they find stimulating and challenging and (b) that is directly relevant to the course in terms of dealing with a food or an agricultural policy problem. The paper could deal with a local/domestic issue or a world/international issue. Everyone should have a topic no later than Tuesday, February 6 (do not submit topic but the prospectus outlined below).

Step 2: Prospectus: Each student will submit a two-page summary (on paper and via Vista email) stating the full name of the topic, preliminary review of the literature, an explanation of why the issue is important, and a list of 5 references on Thursday, February 8. The instructor/TA will return this preliminary outline with comments regarding the topic, potential content of the paper, and references.

Step 3: Full Draft: Each student will then expand the summary draft to a full-length paper of 17 pages (double-spaced, typed) to be turned in on Thursday, March 15. The paper should be clearly

divided into sections. A suggested generic outline is as follows: (1) An Introduction containing statement of the problem and significance, brief literature review, and objectives; (2) Analysis of the problem, presentation of data (if any), and discussion; (3) Summary and Conclusions; and (4) References. The paper should also include a list of footnotes (or endnotes), with diagrams and tables as needed. The full draft will be returned on Thursday, March 22nd with comments on content and writing style. Specific suggestions will be given as to how the paper can be improved.

Step 4: Final Draft: Each student will prepare a final draft of the paper (17 pages, double spaced, typed). Close attention should be given to the instructor's/TA's comments provided in step 3. The final draft will be due Thursday, April 12. Students should hand in the first full draft along with the final draft. The paper will be returned graded on Thursday, April 19.

For an example of topics from previous years, see "Previous Presentations" in the web site for the course.

Papers submitted for other classes or downloaded from the Internet are not acceptable. If proven to be the case, you will automatically get an F in the course and will be reported to the office of academic affairs.

Style References:

Use APA style for your references (check an APA manual or go online to www.APAStyle.org).

See also notes on grammar by Professor Langlois at <http://langlois.uconn.edu/WRITING.HTML>

Musts for ARE 261W papers

Based on common incidents in the rough drafts

1. The content of the paper must be divided into logical sections and each section must have a subheading:

A suggested generic outline is as follows:

(1) Introduction containing statement of the problem and significance, brief literature review, and objectives;

(2) Analysis of the problem, presentation of data (if any), and discussion. Possibly, break this section into further subsections.

(3) Summary and Conclusions; and

(4) References.

2. All tables and figures must have the same format, be numbered consecutively, and have a descriptive title. It is convenient to place them at the end of the paper, one per page.
3. All references must conform to the APA (American Psychology Association) style. A handout was distributed in class. Guidelines are also available in the Library or from <http://www.apastyle.org/>. Pay particular attention to how to cite URLs.
4. All pages must be numbered. Start with the number 1 on the first page of the text (some papers count the cover as number 1 and this is not right).
5. Avoid the words: I, we, our, my, mine, me, etc. This is not your journal or an opinion piece.
6. Spell-check your paper and re-read it and rewrite it carefully.
7. The 17 page limit means does not mean that your text should be 17 pages. This limit includes references, tables and figures. On the other hand, do not fill the paper with unnecessary and numerous figures that are simply downloads from the web. Twelve pages of text can be considered adequate if well written.
8. Use campus resources such as the Writing Center. Visit www.writingcenter.uconn.edu
9. All tables and figures must have the same format (redo them if necessary) and must have complete titles.
10. Remember that the paper is 50% of the course grade for both ARE 260 and 261W. Simply do your best.

Your final draft is due on Thursday, April 12. Submit your rough draft and prospectus with it.

ARE 261W - Term Paper Evaluation Form

Substance/Content 50%	Percent
Importance of Topic, Originality	10 _____
Formulation of Problem	15 _____
Depth of Analysis	15 _____
Conclusions and Recommendations for Solving Problem	10 _____
Writing 50%	
Spelling and Punctuation	10 _____

Grammar and Writing Mechanics	15	_____
Organization and Structure	15	_____
Clarity of Expression	10	_____
Total	100	_____