



# **Making Food Policy Relevant: An Innovative Approach**

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# Background

- Supply plants with nutrient-rich soil, and water them appropriately
- **“US Food Policy” Course**
  - **“IE”**
    - Political Science & Agriculture
  - **10 students**
    - **Predominantly Midwest, small town background**

## Connections

*Goal: Independently identify various points of common intersection among different perspectives.*

## Transfer

*Goal: Transfer previously acquired knowledge, skills, and methodologies to a novel context.*

## Synthesis

*Goal: Synthesize distinct perspectives by applying diverse knowledge and skills in order to create arguments or solve problems.*

## Reflection

*Goal: Reflect on their process of integrative thinking.*

# Approach

Students need to understand that:

- They can impact food policy.
- Food policy impacts them on a daily basis.



# Student Thought (Pre)

## Student Perception of Food Policy:

- Distant
- Detached
- Not directly affected
- Cannot Directly Change or affect policy

# Approach

## “Learn by Doing”

- **Students will assume the role of an elected official.**
  - **Local, Regional, State or National**
    - **County Supervisor**
    - **State Senators & Representatives**
    - **City Councilman**
    - **Local School Board Member**
- **Focus discussions & assignments from their elected position.**



# Approach

## Curriculum:

### \*Text

Wilde, P. (2013). *Food Policy in the United States: An Introduction*. New York, NY: Routledge.

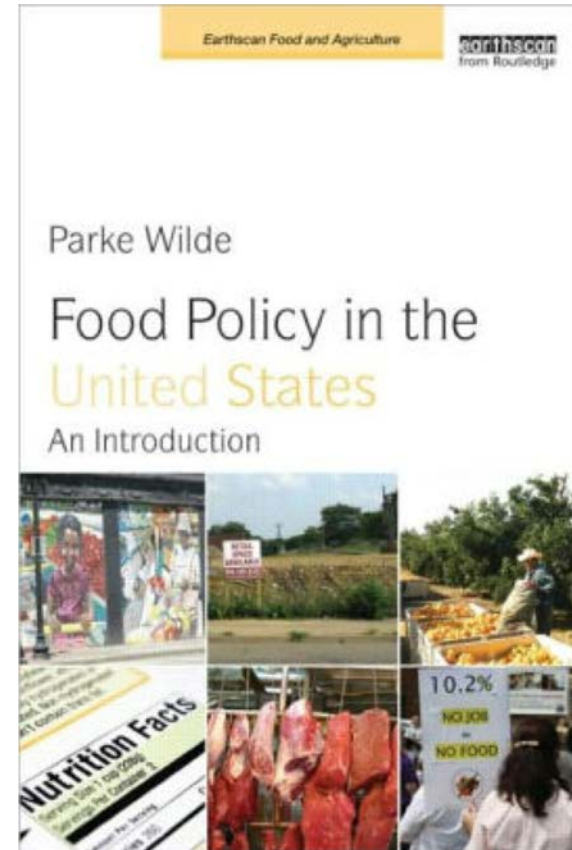
## Current News:

\*2018 Farm Bill

\*USDA Handouts/Emails

## Class Set Up:

4 hour, 1/week



# Approach

## Major Assignments:

- Campaign Speech
- Restaurant Operation
- Restaurant Comparative Analysis
- Stakeholder Interview
- Policy Memo - (Pol Sci Dpt)
- Speaker Reflections
- “Create a Bill” - Final

## Service Component:

- Food Related
- 6 hours
- Pre & Post Service Reflection



# Approach

## Classroom Discussions:

- Sioux City Farmers Market
- Iowa Cattlemen
- Iowa Corn
- Farm Credit Services
- Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska
- Iowa Farm Bureau

## Industry On Site Interactions:

- Fareway
- Pizza Ranch
- Hard Rock Casino/Anthem
- Sioux City Councilman







# Student Feedback

IDEA Question	Strongly Agree
“The guest speakers helped me gain a better understanding of food policy or how food policy is made.”	100%
Tours and visits helped me gain a better understanding of what goes into making food policy”.	100%
The class demonstrated the importance and significance of the subject matter.	100%
Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)	100%

**“Getting out into the community and doing tours beyond the classroom made it much better.”**

**“The tours outside of the classroom must continue. I learned a lot while talking to other business professionals.”**



# Conclusions (Post)

## Student Perception of Food Policy:

### ~~—Distant/Detached~~

“I didn’t realize we had a policy maker on campus”

“This course brought an enormous amount of knowledge to me and how policies are implemented through lobbying, producers, consumers, non-profit organizations, and the legislators that make it all happen.”

### ~~—Cannot Directly Change or affect policy.~~

“I made connections to use the next time I have questions”.

# Recommendations/Improvements

- Continue with “elections”.
  - Limit the number of each elected official?
- Include “Hometown Happenings”.
  - Brings local into the classroom for discussion.
    - School lunches, food recycling, packaging, emissions
- Increase usage of current legislation in the region
  - Classroom discussion (online posts) will ask students to “vote” on a current bill and post their reasoning.

# Limitations

- **Low Enrollment Numbers**
  - Large Numbers the year before.
- **Low Response rates to evaluation**
  - 30%
- **Scheduling**
  - 2 hrs/ 2x week next semester.





# Questions?

