

University of Manitoba
Department of Agribusiness & Agricultural Economics
ABIZ 0710, Agricultural and Food Policy
Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:15pm via Webex
Winter 2021

Professor: Ryan Cardwell

Office: 379 Agriculture

Telephone: 204-474-9609 (but don't phone me because I haven't checked my voicemail since March 2020...)

Email: all email communication is to be conducted through email tool on the UM Learn course site. Messages will be answered within two business days. Messages sent to the Professor's U of M email address **will not** receive responses.

All course-related email correspondence from me will be sent to the address on file with UM Learn.

Course-related materials will be posted to the course webpage (**not on UM Learn**) at <https://ryancardwell.wordpress.com/teaching/abiz-0710-agricultural-and-food-policy/>. I do not post lecture notes. You are responsible for getting missed notes from a classmate.

Office Hours: By appointment – send me an email message via UM Learn to set a time.

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the motivations for government policies related to food and agriculture, and the policy instruments that are used to pursue policy objectives. All government policies create *winners* and *losers* – we will spend a lot of time discussing how to identify the effects of winners and losers of government food policies.

The first part of the course introduces motivations for agricultural policies and describes some tools that can be used to meet policy goals. The second part provides details on specific policies, with emphasis on Canadian food and agricultural policies. Students are expected to have basic knowledge of microeconomics.

Programmes such as AgriStability are analysed, however it is important to note that the primary goal of this course is **not** to memorise the details of specific government policies. Government policies change every few years, so knowledge of a specific program is useful only for limited period of time. This course is intended to **provide students with the tools to understand and analyse the economics effects of current and future agricultural policies.**

Evaluation (subject to revision):

Problem set	5%
Midterm #1	15%
Midterm #2	20%
Project	20%
Final Examination	40%*

***Optional** Term Paper 15% (if you submit a term paper, then your paper grade will replace the lowest 15% of your final grade from other components)

Reading Material:

There is no required textbook for this course. Lecture material will be drawn from several sources, some of which are listed below. Additional reading material will be assigned throughout the term as needed.

Some useful sources:

An Overview of the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food System 2017, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Anderson, K. and W. Martin. 2008. "Distortions to Agricultural Incentives in China and Southeast Asia." World Bank Agricultural Distortions Working Paper #69.

Schmitz, A., C. Moss, T.G. Schmitz, H. Furtan and H.C. Schmitz, 2010, *Agricultural Policy, Agribusiness and Rent-Seeking Behaviour, Second Edition*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

*This text is referred to as **Schmitz et al.** throughout the rest of the syllabus.

Schmitz, A. 2008. "Canadian Agricultural Programs and Policies in Transition", *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*. Volume 56, p. 371-391.

Academic Integrity and Other Unpleasantness

Extensions will not be granted without a medical certificate. The term paper and assignments are subject to a penalty of 20% per day late. Missed examinations will be assigned a grade of 0 without a medical certificate (the certificate must be provided within seven days of the missed exam). In the event that a medical certificate is provided within seven days of the missed exam, the points allocated to that exam will be added to the weight of the final exam.

Important Dates

See the following website for important academic dates:

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/deadlines/index.html>. Students will receive grades on their midterm exams before the voluntary withdrawal deadline.

The University's policies on plagiarism and cheating can be viewed at:

http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/cheating_plagiarism_fraud.html

Outline of Topics:

Part I. Introduction and Background

1. Agriculture and Agribusiness in Canada

Readings:

- a) An Overview of the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food System 2017, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 2017.

2. Introduction to Policy Analysis

Readings:

- a) **Schmitz *et al.***, chapter 1.
- b) Tweeten, L. 1995. The Twelve Best Reasons for Commodity Programs: Why None Stands Scrutiny? *Choices*, Second Quarter, Vol. 10 Issue 2, p.p. 4-10.
- c) Econtalk podcast. "Daniel Sumner on the Political Economy of Agriculture." (<https://www.econtalk.org/daniel-sumner-on-the-political-economy-of-agriculture/>)

3. Income Stabilisation

4. Marketing and Market Regulation

Readings:

- a) Cardwell, R. C. Lawley and D. Xiang. 2015. "Milked and Feathered: The Regressive Welfare Effects of Canada's Supply Management Regime." *Canadian Public Policy*. 41(1): 1-14.

5. Environmental Policy

Readings:

Schmitz *et al.*, chapter 16.

6. International Considerations

Readings:

- a) Sumner, D. A., & Zijldwijk, T. (2019). The law and economics of Canada's WTO litigation contesting US country-of-origin labeling (COOL). *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 67(4), 327-347.
- b) Cardwell, R., & Brewin, D. G. (2019). Blackleg or blackmail? Economics of the Canada–China canola trade dispute. *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 67(3), 251-260.

7. Other topics

- a) Business risk management
- b) Current events
- c) Other interests