University of Manitoba  
Department of Agribusiness & Agricultural Economics  
ABIZ.7380 Agricultural Policy  
Wednesdays, 10:00am – 1:00pm  
Winter 2022

Professor: Ryan Cardwell  
Office: 379 Agriculture  
Telephone: don’t phone me…

Email: all email communication is to be conducted through email tool on the UM Learn course website. 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/abiz-7380-agricultural-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:  
This is a survey course on topics related to food and agricultural policy. The class format is mixed – traditional lectures and seminar-style discussions. Background theory and empirical tools will be taught via lectures, and applications (mostly empirical) will be discussed in seminar-style discussions. Students are expected to have training in econometrics and in microeconomic theory. Experience with Canadian agricultural policy is not required. By the end of the term, students should be able to understand and use economic (theory and empirical) tools to evaluate food and agricultural policies.

Evaluation:  
Midterm exam #1 15%  
Midterm exam #2 20%  
Term paper proposal 5%  
written paper 20%  
presentation 5%  
Final examination 35%
**Reading Material:**

Reading material is drawn from several sources, including textbooks, academic journals, government and inter-governmental reports, working papers, and news articles. Students are required to **read all assigned readings every week** (approximately three journal articles/book chapters per week) in advance of the lecture on that topic.

All materials are available through the UM library, or will be posted on the course website.

Some recommended books:


- note: a previous version of this book can be found online at [http://web.uvic.ca/~kooten/Agriculture/ProjectEvaluation.pdf](http://web.uvic.ca/~kooten/Agriculture/ProjectEvaluation.pdf).

**Outline of Topics (note that this outline may be adjusted depending on time constraints and student interest):**

1. Introduction
   Basics of welfare economics, background to policy analysis, policy formation in agriculture, theories of compensation, counterfactual analysis.
   Required readings:

Supplementary Readings:

2. Domestic support policies
The economics of policies that are (primarily) domestic (instead of international) in nature. These policies are primarily targeted at affecting domestic producers/processors/consumers, but can have significant effects in foreign markets. Required readings:

1) Price supports

2) Insurance

3) Production controls
   a. Van Kooten (2021). Section 7.3.5.

3. International Trade
Gains from trade, trade policies, international trade agreements and institutions, trade disputes, empirical studies of trade flows.

1) Gains from trade, trade policy tools, compensation
   a. Reed, chapters 2-4.

2) Multilateral and preferential trade agreements
   a. Reed, chapters 6 & 7.

3) Trade disputes

4) Estimating the effects of trade agreements
4. Canadian Agricultural Policy
   b. AAFC Business Risk Management presentation slides

5. Supply Management
   1) Policy tools and welfare analysis – class notes
   2) Unintended consequences
      a. Three papers (read in the following order!)

3) Liberalisation

6. Agricultural Policies in other countries
   1) Cross-country comparisons
   2) The US
3) The EU

7. International Food Assistance
   1) Background
   2) Empirical studies

8. Obesity and Fat taxes
   1) Background
   2) Empirical studies
Important Dates
See the following website for important academic dates:

Students will receive grades on their first midterm exams before the voluntary withdrawal deadline.

Academic Integrity and Other Unpleasantness
Extensions for term papers will not be granted without a medical certificate. The term paper is 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.

University policy prohibits plagiarism and cheating. Please consult The University’s policies at: