



### Course objectives

This course aims to give students a better knowledge of the reasons behind food and agriculture-related government policies, as well as the tools utilized to achieve those goals. We'll talk a lot about how to determine which people benefit and which people suffer from government policies as all policies have winners and losers.

The course's first section presents the reasons for agricultural policies and discusses various instruments that can be employed to focus policy objectives. With a focus on Canadian food and agricultural policies, the second section goes into detail on particular programs. It is expected of students to master the fundamentals of microeconomics.

Programs like AgriStability are examined, but it's crucial to remember that learning the ins and outs of certain government policies is not the main objective of this course. Government policies shift every few years, therefore understanding a particular program is only helpful for a short while. The goal of this course is to give students the skills they need to comprehend and evaluate the financial implications of both present-day and upcoming agriculture policies.

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Course Number &amp; Title:</b>       | ABIZ 0710 – Agricultural Policy (A01) |
| <b>Number of Credit Hours:</b>          | 3 credit hours                        |
| <b>Class Times &amp; Days of Weeks:</b> | 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM (TR)                |
| <b>Location of Classes:</b>             | AGRICULTURE 138                       |

### Instructor Contact Information

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Instructor:</b>     | Bibhuti Sarker   |
| <b>Availability:</b>   | Flexible to accommodate students' schedule. Send an email for an appointment.  |
| <b>Email:</b>          | <a href="mailto:Bibhuti.Sarker@umanitoba.ca">Bibhuti.Sarker@umanitoba.ca</a>   |
| <b>Contact Method:</b> | You can contact me over email, but the email <b>must</b> be from your U of M email address and contain <b>ABIZ 0710</b> in the subject line and your full name and student number in the text body. I will not respond to messages that lack this information. |

## Course Evaluation Method

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| In-class quizzes:                | 5%          |
| Midterm: March 7                 | 25%         |
| Presentation                     | 10%         |
| Project                          | 20%         |
| Final Exam: 2 hours (Cumulative) | 40%         |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>100%</b> |

**Note:** March 20, 2023, is the voluntary withdrawal date for Winter term classes. Students will receive grades on their midterm before this deadline.

## Learning Materials

For this course, there is no required textbook. There will be a variety of sources used for the lecture materials, some of which are mentioned below. Throughout the term, more reading will be assigned as needed.

## Course outline

### 1. Agriculture and agribusiness in Canada

Readings:

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

### 2. Introduction to Policy Analysis

Readings:

Chapters 1 & 2 from “Schmitz, A., Moss, C. B., Schmitz, T. G., van Kooten, G. C., & Schmitz, H. C. (2022). Agricultural policy, agribusiness, and rent-seeking behavior (3rd edition). University of Toronto Press”.

Econtalk (February 9, 2015 episode). Available online at <https://www.econtalk.org/daniel-sumner-on-the-political-economy-of-agriculture/>.

Worthwhile Canadian Initiative blog entry January 31, 2011. Available online at [http://worthwhile.typepad.com/worthwhile\\_canadian\\_initi/2011/01/evaluation-1.html](http://worthwhile.typepad.com/worthwhile_canadian_initi/2011/01/evaluation-1.html).

### 3. Income stabilization

Readings:

Schmitz, A. (2008). Canadian Agricultural Programs and Policy in Transition. Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics/Revue Canadienne d'agroeconomie, 56(4), 371–391.

#### 4. Marketing and Market Regulation

##### Readings:

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:

Chapters 14 & 15 from "Schmitz, A., Moss, C. B., Schmitz, T. G., van Kooten, G. C., & Schmitz, H. C. (2022). *Agricultural policy, agribusiness, and rent-seeking behavior* (3rd edition). University of Toronto Press".

#### 6. International Considerations

##### Readings:

Sumner, D. A., & Zuijdwijk, 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.

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

### Project timeline

1. **Selection of project:** A short overview of your project should be submitted to UMLEARN by **February 16 (by 11:59 PM)**. A maximum one-page (not counting the list of references), single-spaced document in PDF format outlining the project which must include:

- Title of the project
- Specification of the policy that you will be working on in your project
- The tentative layout of your project. It should encompass a detailed outline that delineates the specific tasks, milestones, and objectives you aim to achieve, providing a comprehensive overview of the activities and methodologies that will be employed in your project.

2. **Final report:** should be submitted by **April 8 (by 11:59 PM)**

**Note:** You are prohibited from seeking assistance from any AI tools throughout your project. All submitted work will undergo thorough scrutiny, and any instances of suspicious activity will be subject to the university's plagiarism and cheating policies. AI tools may only be utilized for grammatical corrections.

## Class lecture and notes

I do not distribute lecture slides and notes. If you miss any class, you are responsible for getting them from classmates.

## Quizzes

There will be 6 class quizzes, of which I will count the best 5. Each quiz will be worth 2 marks. Quizzes will be either one-sentence-answer or MC or FIB type *based on materials from the previous class(s)*. I will allow a fixed time during class for each quiz. Quiz marks will not be transferred to the final, i.e., **Missed quizzes will count as 0.**

## Midterm exam

The midterm exam will be closed-book and held during class time. I will share details as time approaches.

## Final exam

The final exam will be **2 hours** in length and will be closed-book and invigilated. It will cover all chapters (cumulative). It will consist of two sections: section A will be multiple choice, multi-select, fill-in-the-blank, true/false type questions and section B will be written response questions. I will provide details as the date approaches.

**Note:** The date for the final exam will be announced when scheduled. If you miss the final exam for any reason, you need to contact your Dean's office (not me).

## Grading

| Letter Grade | Out of 100   | Grade Point Range | Final Grade Point |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A+           | 90-100       | 4.25-4.5          | 4.5               |
| A            | 80-89.99     | 3.75-4.24         | 4.0               |
| B+           | 75-79.99     | 3.25-3.74         | 3.5               |
| B            | 70-74.99     | 2.75-3.24         | 3.0               |
| C+           | 65-69.99     | 2.25-2.74         | 2.5               |
| C            | 60-64.99     | 2.0-2.24          | 2.0               |
| D            | 50-59.99     | Less than 2.0     | 1.0               |
| F            | Less than 50 |                   | 0                 |

## Make-up test policies

If you miss the midterm, the grade will be transferred to the final exam. There must be a valid reason to miss tests (e.g., travel or simple forgetfulness is not a valid reason). If you miss a test, you will have to provide me with a doctor's note to be eligible for the grade to be transferred.

### **Class Communication**

I will be sending you an email if there is any immediate announcement, otherwise see "UM Learn" for all notices and communications. Please note that the University of Manitoba requires all students to activate an official University email account. See the link below for details of the Electronic Communication with Students:

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Electronic Communication with Students Policy - 2014\\_06\\_05.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Electronic_Communication_with_Students_Policy_-_2014_06_05.pdf)

Please note that all communication between the students and the instructor must comply with the electronic communication with student policy:

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/electronic\\_communication\\_with\\_students\\_policy.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/electronic_communication_with_students_policy.html). You are required to obtain a valid U of M email address to communicate with me.

### **PowerPoint slides and lectures**

PowerPoint slides for each chapter will be posted on UM Learn. However, PowerPoint slides are not complete and comprehensive class notes, they can merely give a sketch of the topics covered in the course. Hence, students are strongly advised to go through the textbook for a better understanding of the topics covered so that they can be able to solve the questions and problem sets.

### **Discussion forum**

You are encouraged to post any questions about course content in the appropriate discussion forum within the UM Learn site. Anyone can post in the forums, and anyone can respond to forum posts.

- Post your questions in the "Content questions" forum (example: Could someone explain this?).
- I will be available between 10.00 PM and 11.00 PM from Monday to Friday to answer questions posted on the discussion forum.

### **Expectation**

I will treat all students equally and with courtesy and respect. I expect the same from the students. I will try to make the class environment stimulating and make myself available to the students to the maximum extent that I think is reasonable. Moreover, students can learn more by interacting with each other.

### **Using Copyrighted Material**

Copyrighted material is part of the content of this course. The instructor has ensured that content is appropriately acknowledged and copied in accordance with copyright laws and University guidelines. Copyrighted works, including those created by the instructor, are made available for private study and research and must not be distributed in any format without permission or uploaded to any learning

management system (such as UM Learn), or any website, unless an exception to the Copyright Act applies or written permission has been confirmed. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/> or contact [um\\_copyright@umanitoba.ca](mailto:um_copyright@umanitoba.ca).

## Technology and Course Material

The instructor and the University of Manitoba hold copyright over the presentation slides, lectures, and other course materials that form part of this course.

- You cannot take pictures, videos, or audio recordings during lectures without the prior permission of the instructor (Bibhuti Sarker).
- Lecture slides and other course materials should be solely used for the participant's private study and research.
- You should not use **Laptop, Tablet**, or any **other electronic device** to take notes and your **mobile phone** should be switched off during class lectures.

## Academic Integrity

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, ("Personation at Examinations" (Section 5.2.9) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (Section 8.1)) and duplicate submission by reading the documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html>. Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

*(a) Plagiarism – the presentation or use of information, ideas, images, sentences, findings, etc. as one's own without appropriate citation in a written assignment, test or final examination.*

*(b) Cheating on Quizzes, Tests, or Final Examinations – the circumventing of fair testing procedures or contravention of exam regulations. Such acts may be premeditated/planned or may be unintentional or opportunistic.*

*(c) Personation – writing an assignment, lab, test, or examination for another student, or the unauthorized use of another person's signature or identification in order to impersonate someone else. Personation includes both the personator and the person initiating the personation.*

*(d) Academic Fraud – falsification of data or official documents as well as the falsification of medical or compassionate circumstances/documentation to gain accommodations to complete assignments, tests or examinations.*

## Student Accessibility Services

If you are a student with a disability, please contact SAS for academic accommodation support and services such as note-taking, interpreting, assistive technology, and exam accommodations. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. mental illness, learning, medical, hearing, injury-

related, visual) are invited to contact SAS to arrange a confidential consultation. *Student Accessibility Services* <http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/>

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