University of Manitoba  
Department of Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics  
ABIZ.3510, Economics of Food Policy  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:15am, Agriculture 130  
Winter 2018

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Email: all email communication is to be conducted through 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 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-3510-economics-of-food-policy/.

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:00pm - 4:00pm or by appointment

Course Objectives:
The objective of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the motivations for food and agricultural policies and the instruments that governments use to pursue policy goals. The material will be taught at a level that is suitable for policy analysis in the employ of government and business. All students are expected to have solid backgrounds in microeconomic theory (at the level of ECON.2010).

The first part of the course introduces motivations for food and agricultural policies and presents the policy tools that can be used to meet policy goals. We will also spend time reviewing the economic theory, and introducing some new tools, that are required to analyse the effects of policy interventions. The second part of the course provides details on specific policies, with emphasis on Canadian food and agricultural policies, and on international trade.

Programmes such as Agrininvest and AgriStability are discussed, however the primary goal of this course is not to memorise the details of specific government policies. Government policies invariably change every few years, so knowledge of a specific programme is useful only for limited period of time. This course is intended to provide students with the tools to understand and analyse both current and future food and agricultural policies. This is an applied economics course - there will be a heavy emphasis on the use of economic theory to analyse policies.
Evaluation:
Quiz (January 30) 2%
Midterm Examination 23%
Assignments 2 X 5 = 10%
Term Paper 15%
Final Examination 50%

Reading Material:
There is one required textbook, and several supplemental materials that will be used throughout the term. Students can purchase the required textbook from the University bookstore, and there will be at least one copy on reserve in the William R. Newman (Agriculture) Library. Other materials will be available online, as photocopied handouts or on reserve in the library.

The required text is:

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

Other materials include:

An Overview of the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food System, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, March 2016.


Additional readings will be assigned throughout the term.
Outline of Topics:

1. Agriculture and Agribusiness in Canada
   Readings:
   An Overview of the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food System 2016, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

2. What is policy analysis?
   Readings:
   Schmitz et al., chapters 1 and 2.
   Knutson et al., Chapter 2.

3. Economic Tools for Policy Analysis
   Readings:
   Schmitz et al., Chapter 3.

4. Income Stabilisation and Insurance
   Readings:
   Schmitz et al., Chapters 3 and 8.

5. Marketing and Market Regulation
   Readings:

6. Supply Management
   Readings:
   Schmitz and Schmitz (2010).
   Carter and Merel (2016).

7. Food Safety
   Readings:
   Schmitz et al., Chapter 16.

8. Environment
   Readings:
   Schmitz et al., Chapter 13.
   Ward, pp. 312-315.
9. Input and Credit Markets, Land Markets
   Readings:
   Schmitz et al., Chapters 10, 14.

10. Research and Innovation
    Readings:
    Schmitz et al., Chapter 11.

    Readings:
    Schmitz et al., Chapter 9.
    Reed, Chapters 2,3,4.

12. International Trade: Institutions and Agreements
    Readings:
    Reed, Chapters 6,7.

13. Canadian Food and Agricultural Policy and Policy History
    Readings:
    Schmitz et al., Chapter 6.
    Schmitz (2008).

14. Food and Agricultural Policy in Foreign Countries
    Readings:
    Schmitz et al., Chapters 5 and 7.
    Anderson and Martin (2008).
    Norton et al. (2006).
Important Dates (e.g., voluntary withdrawal date)
See the following website for important academic dates:

Academic Integrity and Other Unpleasantness
Extensions for assignments or term papers will not be granted without a medical certificate. Assignments and the term paper are subject to a penalty of 20% per day late. Missed examinations will be assigned a grade of 0 without a medical certificate. 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: