University of Manitoba  
Department of Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics  
ABIZ.7380 Agricultural Policy  
Wednesdays, 10:00am – 12:30pm, Agriculture 365  
Winter 2019

Professor: Ryan Cardwell  
Office: 379 Agriculture  
Telephone: 204-474-9609

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 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/.

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

Course Objectives:  
This is a survey course on topics related food and agricultural policy. The class format will be 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 agricultural and food policies.

Evaluation:  
Midterm Examinations 2 x 15 = 30%  
Term paper (proposal component) 5%  
Term paper (written component) 20%  
Final Examination 45%
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 on the lecture on that topic.

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

Some recommended books:


Outline of Topics:

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

Required readings:
1) Schmitz, et al. (2010). Chapters 1-3 (including appendices).

Supplementary Readings:
2. Domestic support policies
The economics of policies that are (primarily) domestic (instead of international) in nature. Note that these policies, though primarily directed at domestic producersprocessorsconsumers, can have significant effects on foreign markets.

Required readings:
1) Price supports

2) Insurance

3) Production controls

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

1) Gains from 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
   c. AAFC Business Risk Management presentation slides

5. Supply Management
   1) Policy tools and welfare analysis – class notes
   2) Unintended consequences
   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 exam 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. 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: