University of Manitoba
Department of Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics
ABIZ 0710, Agricultural and Food Policy
Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:15pm, Agriculture 138
Winter 2020

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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 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: Wednesdays 3:00 to 4:00, or by appointment.

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. 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 both current and future agricultural policies.
Evaluation:
Quiz (January 28) 2%
Midterm Examination 23%
Assignments 10%
Project 15%
Final Examination 50%*

*Optional* Term Paper 5%  (if you submit a term paper, your final exam is worth 45% of the final grade)

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.

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


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


Assignments
There are two assignments and one project. The assignments are problem sets that apply economics tools used in class. The project involves writing a report and making a presentation.
**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:

**Outline of Topics:**

**Part I. Introduction and Background**

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

2. What is “policy”?
   Readings:
   Schmitz et al., chapter 1.
   Brinkman, pages 24-45.

3. Income Stabilisation
   Readings:
   Brinkman, pages 100-103.

4. Marketing and Market Regulation

5. Food Safety and the Environment
   Readings:
   Schmitz et al., chapter 16.
6. Input Markets
Readings:
Schmitz et al. chapter 14.
Brinkman, 89-92.

7. International Considerations
Readings:
Handouts

8. Research and Development
Readings:
Handouts

**Part II. An Overview of Government Policies in Agriculture**

9. History of Canadian Agricultural Policy
Readings:
Brinkman, 145-158.
Schmitz, 2008.

10. Supply Management
Readings:
Brinkman, 170-177.

11. Growing Forward
Readings:
To be determined.

12. International Agricultural Policies
   a) US Agricultural Policy
Readings:
Brinkman, 180-201.
   b) EU Agricultural Policy
Readings:
Anderson and Martin (2008).

13. International Trade Regulation in Agricultural Products (NAFTA, WTO, etc.)
Readings:
Brinkman, 130-143.