

University of Manitoba
Department of Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics
ABIZ 0710 - Agricultural and Food Policy
Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:30pm
Room: Animal Science 219

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Office Hours: Monday 3:30 to 4:30, or by appointment.

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the motivations for agricultural policies and the instruments that governments use to pursue policy goals. 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 particular emphasis on Canadian agricultural policies.

Programs such as Federal AgriStability and Provincial Crop Insurance are analysed and you are expected to understand them, 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 often 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.**

Reading Material:

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

The required text is: Brinkman, George L., 2004, *Canadian Agri-Food Policy Handbook*. Guelph: University of Guelph.

Outline of Topics:

Part I. Introduction and Background

1. Agriculture and Agribusiness in Canada
2. What is “policy”?
Readings: **Brinkman**, pages 24-45.
Tweeten, L. 1995. The Twelve Best Reasons for Commodity Programs: Why None Stands Scrutiny? *Choices*, Second Quarter, Vol. 10 Issue 2, p.p. 4-10.
3. Income Stabilisation
Readings: **Brinkman**, pages 100-103.
4. Marketing and Market Regulation
5. Food Safety and the Environment
Readings: Regulation of Agricultural Biotechnology in Canada: An Educator's Resource, pages 10-15.

6. Input Markets
Readings: **Brinkman**, 89-92.
7. International Considerations
8. Research and Development

Part II. An Overview of Government Policies in Agriculture

9. History of Canadian Agricultural Policy
Readings: **Brinkman**, 145-158.
10. Supply Management
Readings: **Brinkman**, 170-177.
11. Canadian Wheat Board
Readings: **Brinkman**, 177-178.
12. Growing Forward
13. International Agricultural Policies
 - a) US Agricultural Policy
Readings: **Brinkman**, 180-201.
 - b) EU Agricultural Policy
Readings: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/EuropeanUnion/basicinfo.htm>
14. International Trade Regulation in Agricultural Products (NAFTA, WTO, etc.)
Readings: **Brinkman**, 130-143.

Evaluation:

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| Assignments | 24% |
| Quizzes | 18% |
| Midterm Examination | 20% |
| Final Examination | 38% |

Assignments: There are three assignments; each worth 8%. The first assignment is a problem set consisting of exercises that provide practice in the economic tools that are presented in the first few weeks of classes. The second and third assignments are briefing papers, which are intended to provide the student with experience in briefly summarising and explaining a policy issue. These briefing papers are to be written as though the student is presenting a policy issue to a group of producers for discussion. Each paper will be short (one to two pages) and should provide a snapshot understanding of a policy issue that has been discussed in class. Details of the requirement for each paper will be provided in class.

Exams: All exams are comprehensive. There will be three quizzes in this class. The first is an opening day quiz worth 2%. The second and third will be early February and mid March. The midterm will be in mid February.

Academic Integrity and Other Unpleasantness: Extensions for assignments will not be granted without a medical certificate. Missed examinations will be assigned a grade of 0 without a medical certificate. In the event that a medical certificate is provided, missed exams will be made up by writing an essay-format exam. University policy prohibits plagiarism and cheating. The University's policies on "General Academic Regulations and Requirements" can be viewed in the University Calendar.