



## Department of Economics Course Outline

**Term:** Spring 2005

**Course:** Economics 367  
[Agricultural Economics]

**Section:** 20

**Time:** TR 18:00 ? 20:50

**Place:** SS 109 (subject to change)

**Instructor:** H. Cardona

**Office:** SS 405

**Telephone:** 220-5866

**Office Hours:** TR 17:00 ? 17:50

**E-Mail:** [hcastil@lsu.edu](mailto:hcastil@lsu.edu)

### Textbook(s):

Gaisford ,James D. and William A. Kerr (2001) *Economic Analysis for International Trade Negotiations: the WTO and Agriculture*, Edward Elgar. **[Required]**

Schmitz, A., H. Furtan, & K. Baylis (2002) *Agricultural Policy, Agribusiness & Rent-Seeking Behaviour*, University of Toronto Press. **[Recommended]**

### Book(s) on Reserve:

There are no books on reserve for this course. In addition to background material from the textbook, required and recommended readings for particular topics will be drawn from alternative sources available from the instructor, the internet and/or the library.

### Blackboard:

Students who are registered in this course can log on at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login>

### Course Outline:

This course introduces the major forces affecting the agri-food sector including technological change, price variability,

environmental sustainability and international competition. Topics include government support mechanisms, international trade restrictions, the industrialization of agriculture, the economics of food safety and security, sustainable resource use, and environmental conflict. Consequently, important current issues such as biotechnology and BSE *will* be covered, but the economics of farm management will *not* be emphasized.

A course syllabus listing topics and accompanying readings will be made available early in the term. An agenda of topics for the day and accompanying readings will also be announced in each class.

The prerequisites for this class are Economics 201 and 203. While a basic understanding of macroeconomic is important, the course will systematically apply the tools of microeconomics to agricultural issues. Graphs and basic algebra (to the Alberta Math 30 level) will be used routinely.

### **Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

All students must comply with the regulations published in the University Calendar concerning "Intellectual Honesty," "Examinations," etc. Students will normally be evaluated in accordance with the marking scheme given below.

Final Examination	40
Midterm Examination (in class)	25
Report	25
Assignment	<u>10</u>
	100

Exams, reports, etc. will be marked on a percentage basis. The percentage mark for the course is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, the following letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	88-100	B	72-75	C-	56-59
A	84-87	B-	68-71	D+	52-55
A-	80-83	C+	64-67	D	50-51
B+	76-79	C	60-63	F	0-49

If the distribution of grades determined using the conversion chart shown above appears to be abnormal, the instructor reserves the right to change the grade conversion chart in order to more fairly represent student achievement.

- The final examination will be scheduled by the registrar and held in a classroom. The final examination will be designed to be written in two hours, but students will be permitted 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours of writing time. The FULL COURSE will be covered. Deferred final examinations will not be given except in situations of extreme personal emergency. Final examinations and deferred final examinations will only be held at the time, date and location set by the registrar.
- The midterm examination will be held in a regularly scheduled class. At least two weeks notice will be given. Deferred midterm tests will not normally be given. Students that are unable to write the midterm because of illness, family emergency or religious observance will have the midterm weight shifted to the final. Appropriate documentation is required in all such cases.
- The report will involve an essay-style write up of approximately 2400 words. The report will require some research, data collection and data analysis. At least three weeks will be given to complete the report.

- The assignment will involve analyzing economic data. At least two weeks will be given to complete the assignment.

The final and midterm examinations will consist of various types of short answer questions, short essays, and/or problems. There *may* also be multiple choice questions. The use of non-programmable calculators *will* be permitted.

Both the content and writing quality will enter into the evaluation of the report and the assignment. Reports and assignments that do not meet University of Calgary standards for documentation and/or effective writing will receive a grade of zero.

Throughout the course, students will be expected to be able to develop written arguments and integrate theory into their writing.

**Notes:**

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (report, midterm, etc.) should discuss their work with the instructor within one week of the work being returned.
- At the instructor's prerogative, a remedial assignment for partial credit may be requested of students who have attempted a piece of term work without achieving a passing grade. There will be no remedial assignments in relation to the final examination.
- While attendance in class is not assessed directly, good attendance is crucial. The course material is cumulative, and the readings and lectures are complements rather than substitutes.
- Any work that is not attempted and submitted will be assigned a grade of zero.

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Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333

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HCC:pml

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