



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Winter 2006
Course:	Economics 367 [Agricultural Economics]	Section:	01
Time:	MWF 10:00 ? 10:50	Place:	ES 615
Instructor:	Lixia He		
Office:	SS1061	Telephone:	220-6102
Office Hours:	M 13:00-14:00; F 13:00-14:00; or by appointment.	E-Mail:	helixia@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

Gaisford, James D. and William A. Kerr (2001)

Economic Analysis for International Trade Negotiations: the WTO and Agriculture, Edward Elgar. **[Required]**

Schmitz, Andrew, Hartley Furtan and Katherine Baylis (2002)

Agricultural Policy, Agribusiness and Rent-Seeking Behaviour, University of Toronto Press. **[Recommended]**

Book(s) on Reserve:

The list of books on reserve will be given in the first week of lectures.

Blackboard:

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

Course Outline:

This course provides an overview/introduction of agricultural economics and policy. Lectures and homework assignments are used to provide insights into economic causes and effects of agri-food sector. Main topics included are: characteristics and determinants of agricultural demand and supply, economic analysis of rural household, government support mechanisms, international trade policy, economics of food safety and security, sustainable resource use and environmental

protection. Students will learn how to apply the basic micro and macro economic analysis tools to understand global conditions and development in agriculture, and the interdependence between North America and the rest of the world. A better detailed course syllabus will be made available at the beginning of class. Much of the course material will be on line at the class Blackboard, including lectures, review of course material, and homework assignments.

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.

Office Hours:

Office hours are Monday 13:00-14:00 and Friday 13:00-14:00. Use of email for questions and scheduling of appointment is also strongly encouraged.

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)	20%
Course Project	20%
Assignment	<u>20%</u>
	100%

As a guide to determining standing, the following letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	90 - 100		B	72 - 75		C-	56 - 59
A	85 - 89		B-	68 - 71		D+	52 - 55
A-	80 - 84		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.

1. EXAMINATIONS

Two exams will be given, mid-term in-class exam immediately after reading week and final exam in the final exam week (Registrar-scheduled). The final exam will be held in a classroom. These exams are designed to test understanding of concepts and application of tools of economic analysis. The exams will emphasize multiple choice questions, problem solving and short answers. The use of non-programmable calculators will be permitted. Final exam will be designed for 2 hours and the full course will be covered. All examinations will be closed-book. Make-up examinations will not be given except in situations of extreme personal emergency.

2. Course Project

The report on course project will be approximately 2400 words. It will require problem statement, data collection and data analysis. See me individually at least three weeks before the report due. I need to know what you are going to do and may offer some help to you with your topic. Both the content and writing quality will enter into the evaluation of the report.

3. ASSIGNMENTS

Three homework assignments will be assigned during the semester. These assignments will be made available online via the course Blackboard website. The purpose of these assignments is to help you master your understanding of key concepts from textbook, reading materials, and from lecture. Homework can be submitted late, with or without an excuse, but a penalty of 20 points will be subtracted for each calendar day the assignment is late.

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Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.)

www.fp.ucalgary.ca/econ

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333

LH:mi

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