Quantitative Food and Agricultural Policy Analysis

AGEC 5623 Spring 2020

Meets: Tu & Th 9:30AM – 10:45AM Room: Human Environmental Sciences 0106

Instructor Information:
Dr. Jeff Luckstead Agricultural Building Room 223 479-575-3253 jluckste@uark.edu

Lab:
Time: Tu 5:00PM - 6:00PM
Room: Human Environmental Sciences 0106

Office Hours:
Th 3:00PM – 5:00PM or by appointment

Description in Course Catalog:
Introduction to applied analysis of domestic and international food and agricultural policies using quantitative tools. This course will provide hands-on experience with simulation modeling in microeconomics. An emphasis is place on policy analysis through computer application with theoretical underpinnings.

Textbooks and Other Required Materials:
There is no required text book, required reading will be assigned to students through blackboard.
Below is suggested reading:
J.F. Francois and K.A Reinert. Applied Methods for Trade Policy Analysis: A Handbook.
J.R. Markusen. Simulation Modeling in Microeconomics

Course Home Page and Blackboard:
Course materials will be available through Blackboard, which you can reach http://lean.uark.edu.

Grading: According to the UA instructions for reporting final grades, they generally will reflect the following:
A – Outstanding achievement (90%+)
B – Good achievement (80%+)
C – Average achievement (70%+)
D – Poor, but passing work (60%+)
F – Failure, given for unsatisfactory work (any grade below 60%)

Grade breakdown:

Homework	35%
Class & Lab Participation	10%
Quizzes	35%
Research Proposal	10%
Final Coding Quiz	10%
Total	**100%**

- **Homework:**
  - Homework will involve solving models and preforming policy analysis using R software. I expect all student to turn in their own homework assignments. All answer to homework questions should be recorded in a hard copy that is turned in before lecture starts on the due date.
- **Class & Lab Participation:**
  - Students are expected to participate in classroom discussion by both answering and asking questions. Students are expected to attend and participate in the lab by asking questions related to homework and coding in R.
- **Quizzes:**
  - There will be a short (about 15 minutes) quiz after each section.
- **Research proposal:**
  - Student are expected to complete a research proposal based on their thesis or one of the topics learned in class. The proposal will be 2 pages double-spaced, 12 pt font, and 1 in margins. The proposal should include an (1) an introduction that clearly states the objective(s) and (2) a description of the model and methods used. I will grade based on content and professionalism of the report.
- **Final Coding Quiz**:
  - The final consists of a coding quiz. The quiz will be a problem that students have not seen before.

Cell Phones:
Please turn off cell phones during class. The use of your phone is a distraction to me and other students in the class.

Students with Disabilities:
If you want to request reasonable accommodations for this class due to a disability, you must first register with the Center for Educational Access (CAE) and hand-deliver an official Accommodation Letter from the CAE to me during my office hours or after class.

Academic Dishonesty:
"As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail."

"Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's 'Academic Integrity Policy' which may be found at http://provost.uark.edu/. Students with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor."

Inclement Weather:
If the University is open, we will have class. See UA Inclement Weather Policy at http://emergency.uark.edu/11272.php. As the instructor, I reserve the right to cancel class due to inclement weather. Students will be notified by email and blackboard if this is the case.

Dropping this Class:
Situations can arise that warrant dropping a class. However, please see me before you drop the class so we can properly assess whether this is in your best interest (things may not be as bad as you think). Please do not drop without talking to me first.

I look forward to w**orking with all of you this semester!**

Course Outline

Section 1: Getting Started in R

Section 2: Basic Analysis

- **Autarky and Free Trade**
- **Welfare**
- **Transport costs**

Section 3: General Equilibrium and Comparative Advantage

- **Basic General Equilibrium analysis**
- **Heckscher-Ohlin**
- **Ricardian Analysis**

Section 4: Trade Policy Analysis

- **Tariffs**
- **Quotas**
- **Price guarantees**
- **Proportional Quotas**
- **Production Subsidies**
- **Voluntary Import Quota**
- **Export Expansion**

Section 5: Bilateral Trade Models

- **Non-Spatial Equilibrium Models**
- **Spatial Equilibrium Models**

Section 6: Farm Household Model

- **Farm-level model**
- **Industry-level model**

Section 7: Imperfect Competition

- **Monopoly**
- **Oligopoly**
- **Monopolistic Competition**
- **Increasing Returns to Scale**