**IDEC 8018 Agricultural Economics and Resource Policy**

**Course dates:** Semester 2, 2013

**Lectures:** Thursday 1:00 – 3:00 pm (Acton Theatre, Crawford Building)

**Tutorials:**
- Friday 12:00-1:00 pm (Computer Lab 2, Crawford Building)
- Friday 1:00-2:00 pm (Computer Lab 2, Crawford Building)

**Office Hours:** Monday 3:00 – 4:00pm, or by appointment

**Instructor’s name and contact details:**
Quentin Grafton (quentin.grafton@anu.edu.au)
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Telephone 6125-6558

**Tutor’s name and contact details**
Hang To (hang.to@anu.edu.au)
Room 1.30, Stanner Building
Telephone 6125-6556

**Course Description**

This course is designed for students who would like to address three broad questions in agricultural/resource economics and related policy issues:

1. What are the underlying causes and drivers of the key security (food, water, energy, etc.) challenges at a global and national level?
2. What scope is there for public policy (short and long term) to address these challenges?
3. What can and should be done to support efficiency and equitable approaches to these challenges?

**Learning Outcomes**

1. To understand the key issues and policy challenges in agricultural and resource economics in Australia and globally.
2. To develop quantitative skills to model, from an economic perspective, the problems of overuse of natural resources (renewable and non-renewable).
3. To foster the development of independent research and critical thinking.

After completing the course, students should have an understanding of the fundamental theory and tools of analysis of agricultural and resource economics and the key challenges that beset policy makers.
Course Structure

The course is structured around six broad areas or themes that include: (1) agricultural production and food security; (2) water security, economics and policy; (3) fisheries economics and policy; (4) forestry economics and policy; (5) energy security, efficiency and policy and (6) mineral economics, taxation and policy.

As much as possible, attention will be given to the modelling of problems, especially in the tutorials and assignments. Students will be provided ahead of time with summary lecture notes so that as much time as possible is available for ‘do and learn’ rather than ‘sit and listen’. This ‘flipped’ approach to teaching is designed to maximise in-classroom dialogues on the policy issues.

Topics and Readings

The course outline, lecture notes, assignments and grades will be available on the Web Access to Teaching & Learning Environment (WATTLE) at http://wattle.anu.edu.au.

Readings

There is no assigned text for this course although the 12 books listed below provide valuable source material for the course. A reading brick is provided for the assigned/core readings listed in this outline. Readings that are chapters of books can be obtained on a short-term loan (2 hours) at the Chifley Library. Additional references may also be recommended to students during the course.

Course Content

I. Introduction

II. Agricultural Production and Food Security

III. Water Security, Economics and Policy

IV. Fisheries Economics and Policy
   1. Grafton et al., *Economics of the Environment and Natural Resources*, Chapter 4.
   2. Grafton et al., *Handbook of Marine Fisheries Conservation and Management*, Chapters 1 and 2
   4. OECD. *Towards Sustainable Fisheries*, Chapter 4.

V. Forestry Economics and Policy
   1. Grafton et al., *Economics of the Environment and Natural Resources*, Chapter 5.

VI. Energy Security, Efficiency and Policy

**VII. Mineral Economics and Policy**


**Assessment Tasks and Criteria**

The final grade of students will be determined by performance in a mid-term examination, a term paper, assignments, and a final examination. The weighting schedule is as follows:

- Tutorials/assignments: 15%
- Term Paper: 30%
- Mid-term Exam: 25%
- Final Exam: 30%

**Tutorials**

Tutorials and exercises will be handed out in class and will need to be returned the following week for grading. These exercises are designed to help you develop skills in systems dynamics modelling, applied econometrics (in agricultural & resource economics) and to provide a deeper understanding of the material covered in class. The tutor will provide introductions in the first week of the tutorials (Friday) to assist you in using the software packages that you are advised to use to help solve the tutorial exercises.

**Term Paper**

The term paper should be typed and double-spaced including an abstract, introduction, summary and/or conclusion and a list of references. All sources should be suitably referenced using the Crawford School reference style. Your submitted paper should be NO MORE than 3,000 words in length including the abstract, footnotes, tables, figures and appendices. References should be limited to a maximum of 30. The term paper should represent your original thinking on any theme or issue related to agricultural and resource economics. As it is a 3,000 word paper it should not be a long or detailed discourse, but rather a summary of key results/findings and/or policy recommendations (supported by evidence) that provides a novel contribution to our understanding of the chosen topic/issue. A paper that is exclusively a review of the literature is not acceptable.
Originality will be rewarded in the grading of the term paper, but each paper will also be reviewed in terms of its **structure** (relevance of essay to the chosen topic, coverage of the topic), **argument** (logically developed arguments, accuracy of presentation of facts, critical understanding of the issues) and **presentation** (legible and well set-out structure with appropriate headings, sub-headings, paragraphs and sentences, appropriate word length).

The outline for the term papers should give the (1) title, (2) an abstract, (3) a brief description of the research question(s) that will be addressed by the paper and (4) the proposed approach or method(s) to address the research question(s). The outline should be no more than two pages. The outline is due **Thursday 22 August**.

The final, submitted version of the term paper is due at **3:00 pm Thursday 31 October**.

Your paper must first be submitted through the [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) site, and screened using *Turnitin’s* Originality Reports. You will be able to view reports on your drafts before final on-line submission to *Turnitin*. You will be held responsible for the originality of your final submission. Full details on the use of *Turnitin* are available at [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com).

**Mid-Term Examination**

The mid-term examination is scheduled for **Thursday 5 September**.

**Additional Resources**

Additional references and papers may be uploaded onto Wattle.

**Crawford School Policies**

**Grades**

The general grade divisions and descriptors are available on the Crawford Main Wattle site.

**Referencing requirements**

Students are required to reference all words/ideas and opinions of others, using the Crawford Style Guide (a Harvard in-text referencing style).

This can be found in The Crawford Referencing and Formatting Guide available in hard copy from Academic Skills Advisors and online at the Crawford Main Wattle site.

All sources used for the paper should be listed in the references, including Internet sources. Be aware that you are not permitted to appropriate ideas, thoughts, models, or results from other authors without referencing the original source. It is perfectly acceptable to present another person’s ideas, but it must be done properly and requires that you adopt the following principles:

1. Use quotation marks when borrowing the *exact* words by the authors and provide a complete reference.
2. If you have borrowed ideas from another person, whether or not you borrowed their exact
words, acknowledge the source and provide a complete reference.

Help with referencing is available from the Academic Skills Advisors.

**Submission of written work.**

Students submit hard copy assignments directly to the instructor or tutor.

When corresponding with the instructor or tutor please put the Course Code in the subject line of your email (IDEC8018)

All written work must be submitted through the [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) site, and all work is screened using Turnitin’s Originality Reports. Students are able to view the reports on their drafts before final submission. Full details on the use of Turnitin are available on the Crawford Main Wattle site.

The Turnitin Course ID for this course is: **6535921**
The Enrolment Password for this course is: **idec8018**

All assignments should use a cover sheet (available on the Crawford Main Wattle site).

**Policy on extensions and late submissions.**

Extensions can only be given by the instructor. Presentation of a certificate from a medical practitioner or from the ANU Counselling Centre is required. Part-time students requesting extensions due to pressure of work need to provide email and phone contact details for their work supervisor. Requests for extensions must be made before the due date of submission. Late submission, without a prior and approved extension, will incur a penalty of 5% a day.

**Student responsibility**

**a. Student feedback on and formal evaluation of subject**

All courses will be evaluated by the University’s Centre for Educational Development and Academic Method (CEDAM).

**b. Enrolment.**

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that they are correctly enrolled in each subject and that the subjects are correct for their course of study. Students should confirm their subject enrolment details online.

**c. Attendance**

Regular attendance at lectures and tutorials is required.
d. Email

All information updates from the program and the School, and most University communication is made through email using the ANU student email address, which is studentnumber@anu.edu.au (eg u1234567@anu.edu.au). If you wish to forward your ANU email to another address please go to https://anumail.anu.edu.au/uwc/auth

Then go to Options, Settings and use the Mail Forwarding box at the bottom of this page. Announcements made through email are deemed to be made to the whole class.

Academic Honesty

The following is an extract from the ANU’s Code of Practice for Student Academic Honesty, which can be found at http://policies.anu.edu.au/policies/code_of_practice_for_student_academic_integrity/policy

Students should all make themselves aware of the Code.

Any work by a student of the Australian National University must be work:

- that is original;
- that is produced for the purposes of a particular assessment task; and
- that gives appropriate acknowledgement of the ideas, scholarship and intellectual property of others insofar as these have been used.

It is the responsibility of each individual student to ensure that:

- they are familiar with the expectations for academic honesty both in general, and in the specific context of particular disciplines or courses;
- work submitted for assessment is genuine and original;
- appropriate acknowledgement and citation is given to the work of others;
- they declare their understanding of and compliance with the principles of academic honesty on appropriate proformas and cover sheets as required by the academic area, or by a statement prefacing or attached to a thesis; and
- they do not knowingly assist other students in academically dishonest practice.

All breaches, careless or deliberate, are addressed. Careless breaches are addressed through academic penalties, such as deduction of marks and resubmission. Deliberate breaches are subject to action under the Discipline Rules of the ANU (http://www.anu.edu.au/cabs/rules/DisciplineRules.pdf).

Penalties for a deliberate breach may include failing the piece of work involved, failing the course, or having candidature terminated.

Students are reminded that Academic Skills Advisors are available to help with learning the conventions of appropriate academic acknowledgement, and for understanding the use of Turnitin.
Authority of this subject outline

The information given in this course outline is not normally subject to change. However, if there is a need for a revision to the information in this document, the change will be announced by the instructor in class and students will be informed via email to the ANU email address.