IDEC 8018 Agricultural Economics and Resources Policy

Course dates: Semester 2, 2010

Lectures: Monday 1:00 – 3:00 pm (Seminar Room 3, Crawford Building)

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

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

Convenor’s name and contact details:
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Tutor’s name and contact details
Pamela Katic (pamela.katic@anu.edu.au)
Room 1.36, Stanner Building
Telephone 6125-1942

Course Description

This course will help students to answer three key questions in agricultural/resource economics and related policy issues:

(1) How can the world, and also individual countries, achieve food security?
(2) How can natural resources be managed to ensure economic efficiency, an equitable or ‘fair’ allocation and environmental sustainability?
(3) What are the important policy challenges in terms of the use of natural resources?

Learning Outcomes

(1) To understand the key issues and policy challenges in agricultural economics and natural resources in Australia and globally.
(2) To develop quantitative skills to model, from an economic perspective, the problems of overuse of natural resources.
(3) To develop the ability to undertake independent research.
Course Structure

The course is structured around five broad areas or themes that include: (1) agricultural production innovation and food security; (2) water economics and policy; (3) fisheries economics and policy; (4) forestry economics and policy; and (5) mineral economics and policy. Guest lectures on the key policy issues will, where possible, be included in the course structure. The guest lectures currently scheduled include: John Dixon of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research on Monday 2 August on Agricultural Development, Neil Byron formerly Commissioner at the Productivity Commission and Member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists on water policy in the Murray-Darling Basin, and Monday 20 September by James Findlay of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority on fisheries policy.

As much as possible, attention will be given to the modelling of problems, especially in the tutorials and assignments. 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.

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.

Texts

The assigned text for the course is *The Economics of the Environment and Natural Resources* published by Basil Blackwell (2004) and authored by Grafton, R.Q. Adamowicz, W., Dupont, D., Nelson, H., Hill, R.J. and Renzetti, S. (ISBN 0-631-21564-6, library code HC79.E5 E2843 2004). In addition, lecture notes will also be provided to students on Wattle.

A reading brick is provided for the assigned/core readings not included in the assigned text along with some additional (optional) readings. Including the assigned text, the following books are held on short-term loan (2 hours) at the Chifley Library that may be of interest. Additional references will also be recommended to students during the course.

Course Content

I. Agricultural Production, Innovation and Food Security
3. Lichtenberg, E., Chapter 23, “Agriculture and the Environment” in Handbook of Agricultural Economics 2A.
5. Duncan, R.L. Chapter 41 “Food Security and the World Food Situation” in Handbook of Agricultural Economics 2B.
7. Mendelsohn, R., Chapter 60, “Past Climate Change Impacts on Agriculture” in Handbook of Agricultural Economics 3

II. Water Economics and Policy
1. Grafton et al., Chapter 6.

III. Fisheries Economics and Policy
1. Grafton et al., Chapter 4.
2. Grafton et al., Chapters 1 and 2 in Handbook of Marine Fisheries Conservation and Management.

IV. Forestry Economics and Policy
1. Grafton et al., Chapter 5.
V. Mineral Economics and Policy
1. Grafton et al., Chapter 7.

Assessment Tasks and Criteria

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tutorials/assignments</th>
<th>10%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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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 also provide a deeper understanding of the material covered in class. In the Reading Brick there are introductions to using Stata (for econometrics) and systems dynamics modelling should you need it. The tutor will also provide introductions in the first week of the tutorials (Thursday and Friday) to assist you in using the software packages that you are advised to use to help solve the tutorial exercises.

Term Paper

The short 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, appendices, and references. 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 **Monday 23 August**. The term paper is due at **3:00 pm Monday 11 October**. The Mid-term examination is scheduled for **Monday 30 August**.

Your paper must first be submitted through the **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**.

### Additional Resources

Additional references and papers may be uploaded onto Wattle. Link to downloads papers that may be additional to those listed in the course outline will be emailed to students.

### 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.

Full-time students submit hard copy assignments through the assignment boxes outside Student Services (Ground Floor, JG Crawford Building), or directly (the preferred option) to the convenor in class.

Full-time students submit written work in hard copy either to the lecturer or through their Program Manager and Program Assistants for the course (see front of this course outline for details). (G.Dip for POGO only)

Please put the Course Code in the subject line of your email (IDEC8018)

All written work needs to also be submitted through the 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 3256911
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 subject lecturer. 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, seminars and tutorials is expected.

**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_academ ic_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
- 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
- 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 any change to the information in this document, the change will be announced by the Convenor in class and students will be informed via email.