



EC/PO 322 ECONOMIC POLICY IN THE EU AND ITS IMPACT ON GLOBAL FOOD MARKETS

IES Abroad Siena

DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on agricultural and environmental policies implemented by the EU and the effects of these policies on the economies of some European countries where agriculture is a dominant industry, particularly Mediterranean countries. In particular the course examines the food market, comparing the global and European ones. A special focus will be given to the impact that the globalization process has had on European Agricultural Policy (EAP) and on European Environmental Policy in relation to the food market. The impact of European agricultural and environmental policies on global market regulation and on relations with developing and undeveloped countries will also be analysed in depth. The course also analyses the role of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the management of the global food market; how this management influences the EU; and the characteristics of the relationship and the strong conflicts between the WTO and the European Union.

For each topic, the instructor will provide theoretical and empirical examples related to the Italian and Tuscan reality.

The goal of the course is to enable students to analyse the role of European Union and WTO in the development of the Global Food Market.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures
- Students' presentations
- Seminar discussions

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Active class participation and class discussions - 10%
- Written final exam in the form of essay-style answers - 30%
- Oral presentation - 20%
- 3 writing assignments 4-5 pages each - 30%
- Weekly Moodle Forum - 10%

Written final exam

The in-class written exam is designed to assess a student's knowledge of and familiarity with all the content and skills associated with the course. Professor will provide 7 open questions and the student must choose 5 to answer. Students will have two hours to complete the exam.

Oral presentation

Students choose an official EU or WTO document (EU White and Green paper; EU legislation; WTO resolution; WTO agreements) and give a 15-minute presentation with an accompanying PowerPoint in class at the end of the term. Each student will be able to freely choose the topic and the teacher will provide 6 different documents on the subject chosen, among which students will choose one.

Writing assignments

The professor will provide several case studies regarding recent economics decisions, resolutions or policies adopted by the EU or the WTO to solve a recent problem (e.g. specific food market agreement). Students will write a short paper (4-5 pages) on a topic among those provided.

Weekly Moodle forum

Every week the professor will open a new forum on Moodle about a topic covered in the last week. The forum will ask students what they think about a specific argument. Students will have to answer the question and defend their ideas.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Successful progress of the program depends on the full cooperation of both students and faculty members: regular attendance and active participation in class are essential parts of the learning process. More than TWO unexcused absences (that are not medically excused with a written certificate of the doctor or caused by a family and/or personal emergency) will result in a lowering of your grade by a half grade. A penalty of 1 point per day will be assigned for unexcused late writing assignments.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Readings
1	Global Market, Global Food Market and Global Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions • Preview and foundations • Benefits • Cost • Developed, developing and undeveloped countries: geography of global market • G.L.A, class discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gustavsson J et al., Global food losses and food waste, Food and Agriculture Journal, 2011. (20 pp.) • Lang T, M Heasman, Food wars: the global battle for mouths, minds and markets, 2004. (22 pp.) • Rosegrant MW et al., 2020 global food outlook: trends, alternatives, and choices, 2001. (50 pp.)
2	The European Agricultural Policy and the European Environmental Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Meaning • Principles and objectives • Food market • Benefits • Cost • Class discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenschow A, Environmental policy integration: Greening sectorial policies in Europe, 2002. (30 pp.) • Golub J, Global competition and EU environmental policy, 2013. (30 pp.) • Buller H. et al., Agri-environmental policy in the European Union, 2000. (40 pp.)
3	European Food Market and Global Food Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Meaning • Characteristic • Benefits • Cost • Similarities and differences. • Developing and undeveloped Country realities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aksoy MA, Beghin JC, Global agricultural trade and developing countries, 2004. (50 pp.) • Sahota A, The Global Market for Organic Food & Drink1, The world of organic agriculture: statistics and emerging trends 2009, 2010. (50 pp.)
4	Globalization and Agricultural and Environmental policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning • Interaction force • Cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oskam A. et al., EU policy for agriculture, food and rural areas, 2011. (30 pp.) • Von Braun J., The world food situation: new driving forces and required actions, 2007. (20 pp.)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits • The Italian case • Other European countries' cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hirst P. et al., Globalization in question, 2015. (50 pp.)
5	New economic policies for European Food Market and Global Food Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old and new policies • Reasons • The effects of the crisis • Cost and benefit • Some case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andreosso B. et al., The economics of European agriculture, 2003. (60 pp.) • Winter M, Embeddedness, the new food economy and defensive localism, Journal of rural studies, 2003. (20 pp.) • Maxwell S, Slater R, Food policy old and new, Development policy review, 2003. (30 pp.)
6	World Trade Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Role • Activity • Cost • Benefits • Developing and undeveloped country in the WTO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackson JH, Perceptions about the WTO trade institutions, World Trade Review, 2002. (35 pp.) • Bown CP, Participation in WTO dispute settlement: Complainants, interested parties, and free riders, The World Bank Economic Review, 2005. (40 pp.) • Blackhurst R The WTO and the global economy, The World Economy, 1997. (22 pp.)
7	WTO and EU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political positions • Meaning • Cost • Benefits • WTO against European Policies • European Policies against WTO • Class discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De Búrca G, J Scott, The Impact of the WTO on EU Decision-making, 2000. (60 pp.) • Petersmann EU, The WTO constitution and human rights, Journal of International Economic Law, 2000. (30 pp.)
8	Sustainable Global Food Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning • Cost and benefits • European union and the global food paradigm • European countries' cases • Class discussion • Geography of sustainable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seyfang G, Ecological citizenship and sustainable consumption: Examining local organic food networks, Journal of rural studies, 2006. (25 pp.) • Campbell H. The rise and rise of Europe GAP: European (re) invention of colonial food relations, Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food, 2005. (20 pp.) • Sonnino R, Marsden T, Beyond the divide: rethinking relationships between alternative and conventional food networks in Europe, Journal of Economic Geography, 2006. (30 pp.)
9	Global Food Market and Local European Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Meaning • Principles and objectives • Benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swinnen JFM, Global supply chains, standards and the poor: how the globalization of food systems and standards affects rural development and poverty, 2007. (40 pp.)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost • Class discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Hara SU, Stagl S, Global food markets and their local alternatives: a socio-ecological economic perspective, Population and Environment, 2001. (50 pp.)
10	<p>National Food Policy of European Countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About Global Food Market • Position about European policy • Position about WTO • Class discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulponi L., Private voluntary standards in the food system: The perspective of major food retailers in OECD countries, Food policy, 2006. (30 pp.) • Becker T et al., European food quality policy: The importance of geographical indications, organic certification and food quality assurance schemes in European countries, Journal of International Law and Trade Policy, 2009. (30 pp.)
	Review and final exam	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

During the course we will be organized two field studies:

- Qualivita Foundation in Siena which deals with the protection and enhancement of agricultural products with a designation of origin. We will discuss with foundation staff the effects of the global market on the Italian agricultural sector and on standard quality of Italian products.
- A farm in Pienza or San Gimignano to better understand the effects of EU policies on local agricultural production.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Moussis, Nicolas. Access to European Union: Law, Economics, Policies. Rixensart, Belgium: European Study Service, 2006.
- Wyn, Grant. Common Agricultural Policy. Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1997.
- Downes, Chris. The Impact of WTO SPS Law on EU Food Regulations (Studies in European Economic Law and Regulation), Springer, 2014.
- Weis AJ, The global food economy: The battle for the future of farming, 2007.