

## AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

[Prof. Paolo SCKOKAI](#)

### **COURSE AIMS**

The course aims to introduce students to the main policies concerning agriculture, food and the rural environment, with a specific reference to policies applied in the European Union (EU). Emphasis will be given to the microeconomic aspects (impact on markets and prices; impact on consumer, producer and taxpayer welfare) and to the impact on management of agri-business firms.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of the course, the student will be able to analyse critically the impact of EU agro-food and environmental policies, both in their general economic impact and in their impact on management of agri-business firms.

### **COURSE CONTENT**

	ECTS
<b>Introduction.</b> The importance of agricultural, food and environmental policies for European integration	0.5
<b>The context of EU policies.</b> EU institutions. EU budget structure and formation. The WTO and its impact on EU agro-food and environmental policies	0.5
<b>The economics of agricultural policies.</b> The instruments of the EU agricultural policies (market policies, direct payments, decoupling). The economic and business impact of agricultural policies.	1.0
<b>The economics of food policies.</b> The instruments of the EU food policies (consumers' policies, food quality, food safety). The economic and business impact of food policies.	1.0
<b>The economics of environmental policies.</b> The instruments of the EU environmental policies related to agricultural and food (water policies, agri-environmental policies, rural development). The economic and business impact of environmental policies.	1.0

### **READING LIST**

Selected readings from:

OSKAM-G. MEESTER-H. SILVIS, *EU policy for agriculture, food and rural areas*. Wageningen Academic Publishers, Wageningen, The Netherlands, 2010.

LUSK J. L., ROOSEN J. AND SHOGREN, J. *The Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Food Consumption and Policy*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2011.

Further readings on specific topics will be indicated during the course.

### **TEACHING METHOD**

The course will be developed through class lectures and case studies for specific agro-food policies.



### ***ASSESSMENT METHOD***

The exam is structured in two parts: one final written exam and an oral presentation of the results of a work carried out in small groups.

The final written exam lasts 120 minutes and it is structured with open questions. The questions refer to both descriptive and economic analysis topics. The score attached to each question may change depending on the test. The assessment is intended to provide a sufficiently precise measure of the student's learning and to offer to the instructor a grasp of the student's reasoning skills and abilities to analyze economic issues concerning agro-food policies.

The group work will analyse several case studies concerning the impact of EU agro-food policies on business strategies carried out by agro-food firms for some specific products.

### ***NOTES***

Further information can be found on the instructor's webpage or on the Faculty notice board.

Prof. Paolo Sckokai is available to meet with students after class in the SMEA offices or by appointment (tel. 0523-599290; email [paolo.sckokai@unicatt.it](mailto:paolo.sckokai@unicatt.it)).