

ECONOMICS OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD MARKETS

[Prof. Daniele MORO](#)

COURSE AIMS

The module provides the tools for understanding the functioning of agri-food markets and the transmission of phenomena along the supply chain (raw materials markets, producer markets, wholesale markets and consumer markets), given the peculiar characteristics of farmer supply and consumer demand in the agri-food sector, the structure of marketing margins, the international trade and the role of agricultural and trade policies.

COURSE CONTENT

	Credits
<i>Food demand.</i> Review of demand fundamentals and food demand features. Topics in food demand: health and obesity and demand for nutrients; food safety.	1.5
<i>Agricultural Supply.</i> Review of supply fundamentals and agricultural supply features. Topics in agricultural supply: technical change and innovation; uncertainty.	1.5
<i>Price transmission.</i> Marketing margins. The role of imperfect competition.	1.0
<i>The time dimension of prices.</i> The demand for stocks.	0.5
<i>The space dimension of prices.</i> The role of transportation costs. Gains from trade	0.5
<i>Introduction to theories of international trade and trade policy.</i> Neo-classical theories. The role of imperfect competition. Tariff and non tariff barriers. Measures of protection/support.	1.0

READING LIST

- W.G. TOMEK-H.M. KAISER, *Agricultural Product Prices*, Cornell Press University, Ithaca, USA, 2014.
 P.G. HELMBERGER-J.P. CHAVAS, *The Economics of Agricultural Prices*, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1996.
 D. HUDSON, *Agricultural Markets and Prices*, Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, UK, 2007.
 P. KRUGMAN-M. OBSTFELD, *International Economics: Theory and Policy*, 6th Edition, Addison-Wesley-Longman, 2003.
 B. NAVARETTI-G. AND A.J. VENABLES, *Multinational Firms in the World Economy*, Princeton University Press, 2004.
 T.A. PUGEL, *International Economics*, 12th Edition, Mc Graw-Hill, 2004.
 Additional material, specific references and further readings will be provided during the course.

TEACHING METHOD

The course consists of 6 lecture credits (42 hours). The approach will rely primarily on the graphical analysis of problems. Additional material (overheads) will be a support for teaching and studying.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

One written final exam (60% of final mark) and two assignments (each one counting 20% of final mark).

The written final exam will last 120/150 minutes. The questions refer to both descriptive and methodological topics; referring to the latter, students are explicitly required to answer using graphs and/or simple proofs. The score attached to each question may change depending on the test and will be specified before the exam. 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 use methodological instruments to explain real facts characterizing the agricultural and food markets. Students are explicitly required to reach a minimum score in the final exam in order to pass the exam.

Assignments will refer to the empirical application of concepts and instruments presented in class; students will be required to solve exercises and/or problems, involving the application of mathematical and econometric tools and/or to present their analyses. Due date will be communicated at the beginning of the course.

Professor Daniele Moro will receive students after classes or by appointment (phone: 0523/599292 - daniele.moro@unicatt.it).