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RESULTS OF A SURVEY OF GRADUATE COURSES IN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

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Introduction

In the fall of 2008 I surveyed the web sites of 73 universities (offering degrees in agricultural economics according to the American Applied Economics Association) in North America (Canada and the United States) looking for graduate courses that dealt with agricultural policy, agricultural trade and/or welfare economics. This survey identified 48 universities that offer these courses. Of the universities not included in the sample three do not offer graduate degrees; 13 do not offer the type of course I was looking for; online information was not available for seven (amazing in this day and age); and the web site was not accessible for two universities. Of the 48 universities included in the sample, 19 offer one course in agricultural policy, agricultural trade or in welfare economics; 16 universities offer two such courses; eight universities offer three; and five universities offer four such courses.

The 48 universities offer 95 courses in the areas of interest. I was able to obtain course outlines for 85 of these courses primarily through correspondence with the course instructors. It is again amazing that most of the course outlines are not readily available online. The outlines were then sorted into four broad groups: 1) courses dealing with generic welfare analysis; 2) courses with “trade” someplace in the title; 3) courses dealing with agricultural and food policy; and 4) courses dealing with issues in resource economics (cost-benefit analysis, etc.). This report is focused on the 28 course outlines that have “trade” in the title. These courses are offered by 24 universities with only four universities offering more than one course in the trade area. In several cases the graduate course is taught along with a similar offering at the undergraduate level (dual numbered).

The 28 “trade” outlines were then sorted into four groups but the dividing lines between these four groups are somewhat arbitrary. Four courses appeared to be essentially trade theory courses. Eighteen of the courses include material on trade theory but were clearly focused on issues that are important in agricultural trade. Four courses were heavy on trade theory but also included some trade policy issues (not always agriculturally based). Finally, two courses appeared to include no trade theory but were focused on “policy” and relied on a number of issues outside of agriculture to provide examples of policy.

Text Books

In many cases the trade courses did not have a required text book but many had one or more recommended text books. The required and recommended text books were an eclectic mix, 17 different texts in total. Only five text books were mentioned more than once and only two more than twice. The five text books with two or more mentions are:

Feenstra, R. C. 2004. *Advanced International Trade*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (3 courses)

Houck, J. P. 1986. *Elements of Agricultural Trade Policies*. New York: Macmillan Publishers. (2 courses)

Koo, W. W. and P. Lynn Kennedy. 2005. *International Trade and Agriculture.* Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. (7 courses)

Salvatore, D. 2001. *International Economics*. New York: John Wiley and Sons. (2 courses)

Tweeten, L. 1992. *Agricultural Trade: Principles and Policies*. Boulder: Westview Press. (2 courses)

Outline

I have provided an outline for "trade" courses that includes most of the topics covered in the 28 courses surveyed. The exact topics included in any single course depends on its focus, the length of the term and the instructors preferences. However, no course could hope to cover all of the topics mentioned below. Courses with a trade theory emphasis include most of the topics in section1 and some from sections 3, 5, 8 and 9. The more typical agricultural trade course included topics 1a, 1b, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, and some portion of the topics in sections 5, 6 and 7. Many of these courses also included topics 9 and 11. Something more than 50 percent of these courses would also include some of the trade modeling topics in section 4. After that it was a bit of a dog' breakfast of topics that individual instructors included in their courses.

Universities and Courses Included in the Sample

Courses surveyed: University of Alberta (585);University of Arkansas (5021); University of Arizona (452&552); University of British Columbia (490); California Polytechnic State University (563); University of California, Berkeley (201); University of Georgia (6960); University of Guelph (6980); University of Idaho (533); University of Illinois (455, 556); Kansas State University (840); University of Kentucky (510, 610); University of Minnesota (5751, 8702); Mississippi State University (8532); University of Nebraska (901d); New Mexico State University (520); North Dakota State University (472&672); North Carolina A&T (632); North Carolina State University (748); Oklahoma State University (4343&5343, 5733); Purdue University (644); University of Saskatchewan (855); University of Wyoming (4880);

1. **Trade Theory**
    a. Comparative advantage
    b. Heckscher-Ohlin
    c. Specific factors model
    d. Imperfect competition
        i. duopoly
        ii. monopoly
        iii. vertical differentiation
    e. Economies of Scale
    f. Empirical evidence
    g. Trade and labor markets
    h. Distance and trade costs
    i. Income distribution effects
    j. Immiserizing growth
    k. Balance of payments
2. **Trade Institutions**
    a. WTO
    b. Multilateral and preferential trade negotiations
3. **Gains from Trade and Economic Welfare**
    a. Welfare measures
    b. Comparative advantage
    c. Import demand and excess supply
    d. Large and small country assumptions
    e. Trade under uncertainty
    f. Theory of second best
4. **Trade Models**
    a. Partial equilibrium
    b. Spatial equilibrium
    c. Equilibrium displacement models
    d. Armington model
    e. Gravity equation
    f. Policy evaluation matrix
    g. CGE models
5. **Importer Trade Policies**
    a. Tariffs
        i. optimal tariffs
        ii. maximum revenue tariff
        iii. effective protection

    b. Quotas
        i. tariff rate quotas
    c. Technical barriers to trade
        i. food labeling
    d. Import and consumption subsidies
    e. Proportional import quotas
    f. Variable levies
6. **Exporter Trade Policies**
    a. Export subsidies
        i. international cartels and commodity agreements
        ii. state trading enterprises
        iii. embargos
7. **Trade Effects of Domestic Policies**
    a. Price discrimination
    b. Market price supports
    c. Deficiency payments
    d. Voluntary export restraints
    e. Input subsidies
    f. Decoupling
    g. Production controls and supply management
    h. Stabilization programs
    i. Buffer stocks
8. **Political Economy of Trade Policy**
    a. Rent seeking
9. **Exchange Rates**
10. **Law of One Price**
11. **Regional Trade Agreements**
    a. Free Trade Agreements
    b. Customs Union
12. **Measures of Protection**
    a. Effective rate of protection
    b. Aggregate measure of support
13. **Contingent Protection**
14. **Competitive Advantage**
15. **Multinationals and Foreign Direct Investment**
    a. Firm level heterogeneity
    b. International sourcing
16. **Trade and the Environment**
17. **Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property**
18. **Trade Development and Growth**

19. **Biotechnology**
20. **Food Assistance Programs**
21. **Global warming**
22. **Agricultural Productivity and R&D**