



Degree in Economics
Academic year 2015/16

European Union Policy and rural development (III Year, II semester, 6 credits)

Name of the teacher: Prof. Marcella Rizzo

Student receiving place: Palazzo delle Scienze – C.so Italia, 55 - Catania

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Student receiving timetable: Tuesday 10.00 -12.00; Friday 10.00 -12.00 (room 47, IV floor)

**General
Objectives of
teaching in
terms of expected results of
learning**

1. Knowledge and understanding: the role of agriculture, completely reconfigured by means of profound routes of technological innovation and strategic repositioning in the competitive dynamics of the economic system, have led to a growing interest and a radical overhaul of the entire system of policy making at a national, European, and international level. The course aims to develop knowledge of the economic and institutional framework defined by the European Union for the agricultural sector and the agri-food system through the study of the common agricultural policy, in its diverse forms of intervention. The most recent changes and reforms of the CAP, which have brought a progressive reduction of public support granted to the agricultural sector, will be analysed in the context of the liberalisation of international trade in agricultural and agri-food products (via the enlargement of the EU to the countries of Eastern Europe, negotiations and international agreements, and trade negotiations of the World Trade Organisation).

2. Applying knowledge and understanding: the study of the discipline will enable students to acquire the tools of knowledge and interpretation to identify the role and perspectives of development of the agricultural sector in the overall socio-economic local system, with particular reference to actions for rural development.

3. Making judgments: the knowledge acquired will enable students to express their personal opinions on the nature of public intervention in agriculture, and on the capacity of the agricultural sector to contribute more actively to socio-economic development.

4. Communication skills: students will be given the opportunity to strengthen their communication skills through exposure to the problems inherent in the common agricultural policy with conceptual rigor and terminology, both through active participation in the classroom and through progress and end of course tests.

5. Learning skills: at the end of the course students must be able to recognise the conceptual tools necessary for evaluating the effects of agricultural policies on the markets, having also acquired the capacity to keep continuously updated on the evolution of agricultural policy, also through the consultation of databases and other information accessible on institutional websites suggested by the lecturer.

Pre- requisites none

Teaching organization/ methods Frontal lectures, two times a week, using power point software.

Attendance Normally mandatory

- Reference texts**
1. S. Vieri, Politica agraria. Comunitaria, nazionale, regionale, Ed agricole, Bologna, 2001, (chapter 1, 2, 3 e 4).
 2. Segrè A. Politiche per lo sviluppo agricolo e la sicurezza alimentare, Carrocci editore, Roma, 2008, (chapter 6, 7 e 8).
 3. De Filippis F., Salvatici L., WTO e agricoltura prima e dopo la conferenza di Cancun, Quaderni del Forum Internazionale dell'Agricoltura e dell'Alimentazione n. 3 Ottobre 2003, Roma (chapter 1 e 2).
 4. Nomisma, Prodotti tipici e sviluppo locale. Il ruolo delle produzioni di qualità nel futuro dell'agricoltura italiana, VIII Rapporto sull'agricoltura italiana, Il sole 24 ore, 2000 (chapter 2 e 3).
 5. Teaching materials (available online on STUDIUM).

Evaluation If provided, in itinere evaluation none



If provided, final term evaluation

The students who have regularly attended the course have the opportunity of a written evaluation at the end of the course. The admission at this evaluation depends on the diligence in the attendance that is ascertained by a certain number of signatures required in class, during the lectures.

Students who have not attended will support exclusively an oral examination.

Evaluation dates

<http://www.economia.unict.it/Didattica/Diario-esami>

Way of delivery

web link and/or description, better in STUDIUM

Course syllabus

In the European Union, agricultural activity and, consequently, the industrial and commercial operations related to it, are strongly conditioned by public intervention, without which the primary activity would not be able to withstand the processes of globalisation. This course deals with the study of agricultural policies in Europe and in Italy, analysing the reform of the European Community's intervention strategy that culminates in the policies of supporting prices and markets, and the novel elements in the evaluation of the territory and of rural areas, analysing the close relationship that agriculture has with the health of citizens, to food safety, the health of the environment, and the protection of the landscape.

Topics	Reference text
1. The process of European integration (CECA-EFTA OECD). From the Treaty of Rome to the Treaty of Lisbon EU enlargement: negotiations with Eastern European (CEEC) and Mediterranean countries	Text 1: chapter 1 Teaching materials
2. The birth of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and its objectives (Article 39 of the Treaty of Rome)	Text 1: chapter 1
3. The specificity of the agricultural sector and the instruments of agricultural policy	Text 2: chapter 6 Teaching materials
4. The policy of agricultural market prices: target price, intervention price, threshold price, and export refunds. The main Common Market Organisations (CMOs)	Text 2: chapter 6 Text 1: chapter 2
5. Measures to control supply: producer co-responsibility, guarantee thresholds, financial stabilisers, and physical quotas	Text 1: chapter 2
6. The Mac Sharry Reform and its accompanying measures	Text 1: chapter 2
7. Agenda 2000: the new CMO	Text 1: chapter 4
8. From the Mid-Term Review to the Fischler Reform	Text 2: chapter 7
9. Decoupling and the Single Farm Payment: the historical model and the regional model. Partial decoupling and specific support	Text 2: chapter 7
10. The modulation of aid and conditionality: criteria of statutory management requirements and good agricultural and environmental conditions	Text 2: chapter 7
11. The Europe 2020 Strategy and the CAP 2014-2020: direct payments, greening, and the single CMO	Teaching materials
12. The evolution of socio-structural and cohesion policies. The socio-structural directives of the Green Paper on IMP	Text 2: chapter 8
13. The concept of multifunctional agriculture. The definition of rural space	Text 2: chapter 8 Teaching materials
14. The evolution of EU policies for Rural Development. The programming phases of rural development policy. The LEADER approach	Text 2: chapter 8
15. The rural development policy 2014-2020	Teaching materials



16. Agricultural policies and international trade: from GATT to the WTO (the GATT-GATS-TRIPS agreements)	Text 3: chapter 1
17. The Uruguay Round and the Agreement on Agriculture. The criteria of the boxes: amber box, blue box, green box. The Doha Round	Text 3: chapter 2 Teaching materials
18. The free movement of agri-food products and the principle of mutual recognition	Text 4: chapter 2
19. The European Union quality policy: European marks for the defence of quality, and of typical and traditional products and food safety	Text 4: chapter 3 Teaching materials
20. Economic functions of the models of typical production	Text 4: chapter 3

Typical/frequent questions/exercises

- 1** The specificity of the agricultural sector
 - 2** The policy of agricultural market prices
 - 3** Decoupling: the historical model and the regional model
 - 4** The Fischler Reform
 - 5** The CAP 2014-2020: direct payments, greening
 - 6** The evolution of EU policies for Rural Development
 - 7** From GATT to the WTO
 - 8** The Agreement on Agriculture
 - 9** The European Union quality policy
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