

COURSE: **AGRIFOOD ECONOMICS AND POLICY**

ACADEMIC YEAR: **2017-2018**

TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY: **Characteristic**

TEACHER: **MARIA GABRIELLA NICASTRO**

e-mail: [gabriella.nicastro@unibas.it](mailto:gabriella.nicastro@unibas.it)

web:

phone: 0971 205426

mobile (optional): 329 3606244

Language: Italian

ECTS: 9 (8 lessons; 1 laboratory practice)	n. of hours: (lessons e tutorials/practice) 64 lessons 16 laboratory practice	Campus: Potenza School: SAFE Program: Food Technology	Semester: I
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#### EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course of Agro-Food Policy and Economy aims to provide students with the theoretical bases of micro and macro economics to understand the functioning of the food system and then focus on the institutional and operational aspects of the agri-food markets. In addition, the course allows students to understand and practice the operation of managing a farm.

- **Knowledge and understanding:** Knowledge of the economic principles of basic micro and macroeconomics. Knowledge of consumer behavior within the agri-food system. Knowledge of business theory. Knowledge about the factors of production and the choices of agri-food producers. Knowledge of the agro-food chain. Knowledge of corporate organization in the light of the Community Agricultural Policy.
- **Applied knowledge and understanding:** Understanding specific economic phenomena (Utility, Demand, Supply, Elasticity, Perfect Competitiveness, etc.). Ability to analyze and make cost-effective judgments in making investments that affect entrepreneurs' choices. Ability to analyze in detail the motivations that determine the entrepreneurs' choices.
- **Autonomy of judgment:** Ability to propose the most suitable tools for greater company efficiency. Ability to offer innovative solutions to compete in national and international markets, taking into account the needs of key players.
- **Communication:** Ability to talk with entrepreneurs and technicians in choosing a business strategy for greater efficiency. Ability to estimate a company budget as an instrument for the agri-food businesses indispensable to compete on the domestic and international market.
- **Learning Ability:** Access to data sources using all databases and technical and scientific literature available to prepare a company budget. Ability to use computer tools, spreadsheets, to carry out economic evaluations.

#### PRE-REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics knowledge

#### SYLLABUS

The course is divided into 7 Units. The first two units are key concepts of micro and macroeconomics. In the third and fourth units, concepts and business planning methods are developed. In the fifth unit there are some foundations of the agri-food system. The sixth unit introduces the CAP and deepens only the last reform. In the last unit a business questionnaire is compiled for the purpose of calculating the Company's Net Income.

- ✓ **Unit 1.** Introduction to the course and principles of microeconomics (16 lessons)  
Needs and economic goods. The behavior of the consumer. Utility. Question and supply of food. Demand Analysis. Production and supply. Balance in a perfect competition market. Price formation.
- ✓ **Unit 2. Principles of macroeconomics (8 lesson hours)**  
General macroeconomic balance and equilibrium in an open economy. Keynes theory of aggregate demand. Inflation, public debt and economic development.
- ✓ **Unit 3. The entrepreneur's production and choices (16 hours of lesson)**  
Production and factors of production. Factor productivity. The cost of production.
- ✓ **Unit 4. The economic balance and income distribution (16 hours of lesson + 16 hours of exercise)**  
Structural analysis of the farm. Determining economic results. Business efficiency analysis. Business planning: general considerations.
- ✓ **Unit 5. The agri-food system (8 hours of lesson)**

The system concept. The agro-food chains. Integrated farms. The agri-food district. The distribution of agro-food products. The role of associationism.

✓ **Unit 6. The Community Agricultural Policy (8 lessons)**

The reform of the CAP. The policy for sustainable agriculture.

✓ **Unit 7. Exercises related to Unit 4 (16 hours)**

Compiling a questionnaire whose data allows you to draw up a final balance sheet. In addition, a budget estimate and related net income calculations are estimated in order to make a judgment of convenience to make an investment

#### TEACHING METHODS

The course consists of 64 hours of classroom lessons on all topics of the course and 16 hours of exercises. The exercise will consist in finding economic data directly from the farm in order to compile a final budget and a preventive proposing an investment. In addition, there is at least one study visit to agribusiness farm.

#### EVALUATION METHODS

The aim of the examination is to test the level of achievement of the previously mentioned educational goals.

The exam is divided into 2 parts:

or an intermediate written test consisting in the delivery of a written report with a description of a land and its economic balance company; to pass the test you must acquire the 18/30 vote. If evidence is insufficient, the student will repeat the test as an oral examination at the end of the course.

or at the end of the course, an oral exam on all subjects; to pass the test you must acquire the 18/30 vote

The final grade is the sum of the two scores

#### TEXTBOOKS AND ON-LINE EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

Prima di ogni lezione verrà distribuito il materiale didattico, a cura del docente, riferito all'argomento da trattare in modo che lo studente possa integrare con propri appunti presi a lezione. Il materiale fornito sarà sufficiente al superamento della prova di esame. Gli studenti impossibilitati a seguire il corso possono consultare i seguenti testi:

ECONOMIA E POLITICA AGRARIA, L. Iacoponi, R. Romiti di Edagricole

ECONOMIA DEL MERCATO AGRO-ALIMENTARE, F. messori, F. Ferretti di Edagricole

LO SVILUPPO DELLA POLITICA AGRICOLA COMUNITARIA, R. Fanfani, di Carocci ed.

#### INTERACTIONS WITH STUDENTS

At the beginning of the course students will describe the objectives, programs and evaluation methods. Also be prepared the list and the data of the students attending the course and attendance will be taken each time only for statistical purposes. All course materials will be shared in a folder on Dropbox. All teacher / student communication will be in real time via Whatsapp.

Office hours: generally on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 in the study of the teacher.

In addition to the weekly reception, the teacher will be available via e-mail.

#### EXAMINATION SESSIONS (FORECAST)<sup>1</sup>

Examination every month except August, usually on Wednesday.

08/02/2017 - 08/02/2017 – 12/04/2017 – 10/05/2017 – 14/06/2017 – 12/07/2017 – 13/09/2017 – 11/10/2017 – 08/11/2017 – 12/12/2017 – 10/01/2018 – 14/02/2018 – 14/03/2018

#### EVALUATION COMMITTEE

president : prof.ssa NICASTRO M. GABRIELLA;

members: prof. MARIO COZZI, prof. SEVERINO ROMANO, prof.ssa ANTONELLA P. VASTOLA

SEMINARS BY EXTERNAL EXPERTS    YES    NOX

<sup>1</sup> Subject to possible changes: check the web site of the Teacher or the Department/School for updates.



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ALIMENTARI  
ED AMBIENTALI**