

**Special Topics: Research Methods in Agricultural Economics**  
AEB6933, Class #30060 (Varies)

**Class Meeting Times:** Tuesday 2-3<sup>rd</sup> periods, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> period  
**Locations:** McCarty A (MCCA) 2186, McCarty B (MCCB) G108  
**Academic Term:** Fall 2024

**Instructor:**

Andrew Schmitz

1130 MCCB

(352) 294-7685

[Aschmitz@ufl.edu](mailto:Aschmitz@ufl.edu)

I do not utilize the email tools within E-Learning Canvas

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays – 11:00am to 1:30pm

**Course Description**

The basis of applied research in Applied Economist with applications to trade and agricultural policies in the United States and worldwide. Topics include: Agricultural Mechanization, Free to choose, Investment in Human Capital, World Agriculture in Disarray. Also, attention is paid to the Political Economy of the Black Box, Value Chains, International Capital Movements and Agricultural Research and Biotechnology.

**Course Prerequisites**

Consent of instructor.

This course is intended for graduate students in agricultural economics, economics, or related field.

**Course Objectives**

The focus of this class is on strengthening student skills in carrying out research in Agricultural and Applied Economics. A critical component of being successful in research is thinking outside the box/ Ideas. Given the original research topic, the research is far from complete.

A major limitation of many research papers is the lack of a readable abstract and concluding section. Also, many papers do not make a clear of the underlying assumptions that essentially drive the results. Economics is essentially deriving results based on model assumptions. Often by changing one or two assumptions changes the conclusions of the work. Many successful economists have also appeared in court as expert witnesses. The defense has its economists but so does the plaintiff and the arguments by the two set of economists are very different.

**Course Outline**

Topics include Agricultural Mechanization, Free to choose, Investment in Human Capital, World Agriculture in Disarray. Also, attention is paid to the Political Economy of the Black Box, Value Chains, International Capital Movements and Agricultural Research and Biotechnology.

Special Topics: Research Methods in Agricultural Economics, AEB6933

Instructor: Andrew Schmitz, Fall 2024

Page 1

## Schedule of topics and assignments

Week 1 & 2: Agricultural Economics in Perspective

Week 3 & 4: Agricultural Mechanization: Compensation Principle and Pareto Optimality

Week 5 & 6: The Broad Overview: Examples of Major Contributions in Economics

Week 7 & 8: The Political Economy of the Black Box and Value Chains

**Midterm Exam (Thursday, October 17, 2024)**

Week 9 & 10: Trade and International Capital Movements: The Importance of Assumptions

Week 11 & 12: Gains from Agricultural Research

Week 13 & 14: Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)

Week 15 & 16: Reading and Review of Research Papers

**Final Exam (December 9, 2024 – 3pm – 5pm)**

## Research Paper

Each student will be required to complete a (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins throughout) research paper on an agricultural international trade topic of his/her choice. The paper must be properly referenced and cited and must relate to the topics covered in class. Students are encouraged to use numerical data in analyzing their topic.

Citations should include only credible sources (no Wikipedia or other open source websites or blogs), and should be correctly cited. Students are encouraged to submit completed projects in advance. **(Research Paper due Thursday, November 21, 2024)**

The purpose to this paper is to display your mastery of the material covered in this course and to demonstrate how well you can synthesize these concepts via an independent research paper. Students are welcomed to take an interdisciplinary approach to their topic by incorporating concepts from other Food and Resource Economics courses into their paper and relating these concepts to this course.

## Homework

There may be several optional homework assignments to assist learning. Homework is not graded.

## Format

Because this course is an *analytical* course, it is delivered via traditional lectures. Theories and frameworks are presented in class, and we will discuss their *derivations* as well as *applications* to the ‘real world.’ Quantitative reasoning and analytical methods are used extensively.

Therefore, knowledge of economic principles and concepts is necessary. Keeping up with international news, particularly economic news is imperative in this course.

## Material and Supply Fees

None

Special Topics: Research Methods in Agricultural Economics, AEB6933

Instructor: Andrew Schmitz, Fall 2024

Page 2

## Suggested Readings:

### I

1. Applied Agricultural Research: Foundations And Methodology 1st Edition, (2019), Chris O Andrew, Routledge; ISBN-13: **978-0367011918**
2. Cramer, G.L., K.P. Paudel, and A. Schmitz. 2019. *Routledge Handbook of Agricultural Economics*. London & New York: Routledge Publishing.
3. Schmitz, Andrew., Charles B. Moss, Troy G. Schmitz, Gerrit C. Van Kooten, and Carole H. Schmitz. 2022. *Agricultural Policy, Agribusiness, and Rent-Seeking Behaviour*. 3rd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.  
<https://utorontopress.com/9781487522803/agricultural-policy-agribusiness-and-rent-seeking-behaviour-third-edition>.
4. Schmitz, A., P.L. Kennedy, and T.G. Schmitz (Editors). 2015. *Food Security in an Uncertain World: An International Perspective. Volume 15, Frontiers of Economics and Globalization*. Bingley, UK: Emerald Group Publishing.

### II

5. Schmitz, Andrew, and David Seckler. 1970. "Mechanized Agriculture and Social Welfare: The Case of the Tomato Harvester." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 52 (4): 569–77. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1237264>.  
The Compensation Principle vs Pareto Optimality
6. Chapter: Interface Between Policy and Trade from Schmitz, Andrew., Charles B. Moss, Troy G. Schmitz, Gerrit C. Van Kooten, and Carole H. Schmitz. 2022. *Agricultural Policy, Agribusiness, and Rent-Seeking Behaviour*. 3rd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. <https://utorontopress.com/9781487522803/agricultural-policy-agribusiness-and-rent-seeking-behaviour-third-edition>.
7. Schmitz, A., J.L. Seale Jr., and C. Chegini. 2019. Japanese beef tariffs: Beef quality, farm programs and producer compensation. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Industrial Organization*, 17 (2): 1–15

### III

8. Friedman, Milton, and Rose Friedman. 1990. *Free to Choose: A Personal Statement*. Mariner Books Classics. <https://www.amazon.com/Free-Choose-Statement-Milton-Friedman/dp/0156334607>.
9. Schultz, Theodore W. 1961. "Investment in Human Capital." *The American Economic Review* 51 (1): 1–17.  
[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://la.utexas.edu/users/hcleaver/330T/350kPEESchultzInvestmentHumanCapital.pdf&ved=2ahUK EwjagIrUk\\_WHAxXT48kDHYSMLqYQFnoECAkQAQ&usg=AOvVaw2IvaSkipPT7vEx\\_3-9uJwh](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://la.utexas.edu/users/hcleaver/330T/350kPEESchultzInvestmentHumanCapital.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjagIrUk_WHAxXT48kDHYSMLqYQFnoECAkQAQ&usg=AOvVaw2IvaSkipPT7vEx_3-9uJwh).
10. D.Gale Johnson. 1973. "World Agricultural in Disarray" Springer Link

### IV

Special Topics: Research Methods in Agricultural Economics, AEB6933

Instructor: Andrew Schmitz, Fall 2024

Page 3

11. Schmitz, Andrew & Nguyen, Ly, 2022. "Seafood Supply and Demand Disruptions: The Covid-19 Pandemic and Shrimp," 2023 Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) Annual Meeting, January 6-8, 2023, New Orleans, Louisiana 316534, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.
12. Nguyen, Ly, and Andrew Schmitz. 2023. "The Welfare Impacts of Covid-19 on the U.S. Salmon Sector." *Applied Economics* 55 (22): 2579–95.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00036846.2022.2103505>.

## V

13. The Importance of international trade in Applied Economics (see 2 above)
14. Robert A . Mundell. 1957. "American Economic Association International Trade and Factor Mobility Author ( s ): Robert A . Mundell Source : The American Economic Review , Vol . 47 , No . 3 ( Jun . , 1957 ), Pp . 321-335 Published by : American Economic Association Stable URL : Http://." *The American Economic Review* 47 (3): 321–35. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1811242>.
15. Schmitz, By Andrew, and Peter Helmberger. 1970. "Factor Mobility and International Trade : The Case of Complementarity". *The American Economic Review* 60 (4): 761–67. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1818422>.

## VI

16. Moss, Charles B, Claudine Chegini, and Andrew Schmitz. 2024. "Gains to Agricultural Research : What We Know and What We Think We Know." *Agricultural Research & Technology* 28 (4). <https://doi.org/10.19080/ARTOAJ.2024.28.556418>.
17. Schmitz, A., and C. Chegini. 2021. " GMOS: The Past & The Future". *Journal of Biotechnology & BioResearch* <https://crimsonpublishers.com/jbb/fulltext/JBB.000547.php>

### Grading Policy

A	93% or above
A-	90-92.9%
B+	87-89.9%
B	83-86.9%
B-	80-82.9%
C+	77-79.9%
C	73-76.9%
C-	70-72.9%
D+	67-69.9%
D	63-66.9%
D-	60-62.9%
E	Less than 60%

### Evaluation of Grades

Assignment	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Research Paper	300	30%
Mid-Term Exam	200	20%

Special Topics: Research Methods in Agricultural Economics, AEB6933

Instructor: Andrew Schmitz, Fall 2024

Page 4

Final Exam	500	50%
Total	1000	100%

**Grades and Grade Points:** For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

**Attendance and Make-Up Work:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

For online course with recorded materials a statement informing students of privacy related issues such as:

Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

### **Course Evaluation**

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

**Academic Honesty:** As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers,

Special Topics: Research Methods in Agricultural Economics, AEB6933

Instructor: Andrew Schmitz, Fall 2024

Page 5

quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>

### **Software Use**

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/> **Campus Helping Resources**

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

### **Health and Wellness**

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services. Address: 3190 Radio Road. Services provided:

- Counseling services
- Groups and workshops
- Outreach and consultation
- Self-help library
- Wellness coaching

*Student Success Initiative:* <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/> Services provided:

Special Topics: Research Methods in Agricultural Economics, AEB6933

Instructor: Andrew Schmitz, Fall 2024

Advising  
Peer mentoring  
Coaching  
Peer tutoring

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

## **Academic Resources**

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

*Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

*Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Student Complaints On-Campus:* <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

*On-Line Students Complaints:* <https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>