

Assignments and Grading

All class meetings will be supported by lecture slides and materials to be distributed electronically, and a series of five weekly assignments will lead up to completion and presentation of a final project. The three initial assignments have equal weight (15 pts each), and the three project-related assignments add up to almost half of the semester grade (45 pts), with the remainder (10 pts) given for verbal participation in class including comments on other students' projects:

Summary of Assignments	Grading Weight
Ex. 1. Food prices, consumption choices and nutrient intake	15
Ex. 2. Farm resources, input use and production	15
Ex. 3. Retail markets, food prices and availability	15
Ex. 4. Topic selection and problem statement for final project	5
Ex. 5. Literature review and data sources for final project	15
Ex. 6. Presentation and discussion of final projects	25
Class participation and comments on others' projects	10

Academic Conduct

In brief: Education invites you to take the ideas of others and make them your own, so you are encouraged to read widely and to discuss class materials with other students, but any material you produce to show mastery of these ideas must be your own work. More specifically, each student is responsible for upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, as specified in the Friedman School's *Policies and Procedures* manual (<http://nutrition.tufts.edu/student/documents>) and Tufts University policies (<http://uss.tufts.edu/studentAffairs/documents/tuftsStudentHandbook.pdf#page=4>). It is the responsibility of each student to understand and comply with these standards, as violations will be sanctioned by penalties ranging from failure on an assignment and the course to dismissal from the school.

Accommodation of Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities are entitled to academic accommodation appropriate to their needs. If you require accommodations for this course, please contact me confidentially prior to the start of classes.

Topics, Assignments and Objectives***Week 1: Food consumption, dietary patterns and health*****Assignment:** Ex. #1: Food prices, consumption choices and nutrient intake**Objectives:**

- Describe differences in food consumption between Talloires and your home
- Use indifference curves and budget lines to explain consumption choices
- Use food composition tables to estimate the nutrient content of a diet
- Use dietary reference intake tables to estimate nutrient requirements

Week 2: Food production, farming practices and the environment**Assignment:** Ex #2. Farm resources, input use and production**Objectives:**

- Describe differences in farm production between Haute Savoie and Mass.
- Use production possibilities frontiers to explain farm output choices
- Use input response curves to explain farmers' use of fertilizer and other inputs
- Use farm survey data to describe variation in farm operations across countries

Week 3: Food markets, international trade and social welfare**Assignment:** Ex #3. Retail markets, food prices and availability**Objectives:**

- Describe differences in the food retail environment between Annecy/Geneva and Somerville/Boston
- Use supply, demand and trade to predict and explain food prices
- Use elasticities to characterize consumer and producer response to changes in income, prices and production possibilities
- Use economic surplus to evaluate the effects of government policies (taxes, subsidies and regulation) in food markets

Week 4. Food policy and politics**Assignment:** Ex. #4. Topic selection and problem statement for final project**Objectives:**

- Describe differences in agricultural and food policy between the EU and US
- Use price comparisons and subsidy/tax equivalents to measure net effects of government policy in food markets
- Use economic surplus per person to measure individuals' incentives for lobbying and political activity
- Describe the strengths and limitations of economic incentives as an explanation for political activity

Week 5: Agriculture in economic development

Assignment: Ex #5. Literature review and data sources for final project

Objectives:

- Describe and compare the historical evolution across the US, Europe and the developing world of food consumption, farm production and agricultural policies
- Describe and compare current events and controversies in the agricultural sectors of the US, Europe and the developing world, including the role of GMOs and other farm technologies, the rise of obesity and diet-related disease, or food insecurity and health disparities.

Week 6: Presentation of student projects

Assignment: Final project presentations

Objectives:

- Use economic principles to analyze a food or agricultural issue of personal or professional significance for you
- Communicate your results in a persuasive and authoritative manner
- Contribute constructively to discussion and debate of others' analyses