Universidad Zaragoza

Academic Year: 2025/26

60564 - Agricultural and rural development policies

Teaching Plan Information

Academic year: 2025/26
Subject: 60564 - Agricultural and rural development policies
Faculty / School: 201 - Escuela Politécnica Superior
Degree: 546 - Master in Agricultural Engineering
ECTS: 4.5
Year: 1
Semester: First semester
Subject type: Compulsory
Module:

1. General information

The objective of the subject is to help the student become familiar with the need, principles, methods and consequences of economic policies applied to the agri-food sector and the rural environment. It is intended that the student adopts a critical position when assessing the economic policies that affect the sector where they will develop their professional activity as an agronomist engineer, thus adopting an active and not only receptive attitude.

These approaches and objectives are aligned with the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such that the acquisition of the subject learning results provides training and competence to contribute to some extent to their achievement: 2.c; 8.3; 11.a.

2. Learning results

-To identify and critically compare the different mechanisms of state intervention in the markets of agricultural products: agricultural policies and other measures that affect agricultural products and their commercialization, as well as the effects produced by changes in them, looking for interactions between different factors.

-To identify and critically compare the different mechanisms used by rural development policies, as well as the effects produced by changes in them, looking for interactions between different factors.

-To analyse, interpret and summarize, in a critical manner, scientific or dissemination articles related to some aspect of agricultural and rural development policies.

Learning results 1 and 2 are aligned with the SDGs, in particular with targets 8.3 and 11.a, and secondarily with 2.c.

3. Syllabus

Topic 1: The need for agricultural and rural development policies

Topic 2: Main instruments of government intervention in agricultural markets

Topic 3: Quantification and comparison of support to the agricultural sector. OECD Methodology

Topic 4: Community Agricultural Policy (CAP). Historical development: 1957-1992

Topic 5: Community Agricultural Policy (CAP). Historical development: 1992-2023

Item 6: Community Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027

Topic 7: U.S. Agricultural Policy

Topic 8: Rural Development Policies in the European Union

4. Academic activities

The learning process designed for this subject is based on:

Interactive face-to-face classes: dialogued lesson with the support of audiovisual methods. Problems and proposals for agricultural policy or rural development are discussed and the determining factors and possible effects are analysed as a group. The student will be provided with all the presentations that the teacher will use in class, as well as additional material (newspaper articles and specialized and scientific journals), which will be available in the *Moodle* of the subject.

Practical sessions: the main objective of the practical classes is to provide the conditions for the student to be able to monitor the situation, evolution and perspectives of agricultural and rural development policies throughout the academic year, training them in the use of bibliographic sources and new sources of information and communication, encouraging the active nature of the learning task.

Production of an individual work oriented to the resolution of agricultural policy or rural development problems.

5. Assessment system

In order to pass the subject, students must complete an individual work on a topic related to the subject, which will account for 20% of the final grade, and a global assessment test which will account for 80% of the grade. In order to average both grades, it will be necessary to obtain a minimum of 4.5 in the global assessment test.

The work must be submitted on the date indicated by the teacher at the beginning of the academic year and, although there is no minimum or maximum length, it is advisable that it does not exceed 30 pages. In addition, the student will make a 10-minute presentation of their work in class including a summary of the work done.

The overall test will consist of a written and face-to-face exam of short answer and essay questions according to the syllabus of the subject and other material distributed in class (press releases, articles from scientific or specialized journals and various texts).

Assessment criteria: Work: the quality of the presentation of the written work will be assessed, highlighting the personal contributions and the clarity, order and ability to respond to questions raised during the presentation to the teacher and the rest of the course. Short questions: the ability to synthesize, the precision in the management of concepts and the degree of understanding and assimilation of concepts, principles and fundamentals will be valued. Development questions: the ability to organize, relate, structure and analyse the information, as well as the clarity of exposition and writing will be valued.

Success rates in previous years:

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
100%	100%	100%

6. Sustainable Development Goals

2 - Zero Hunger
8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities