AGEC 640 Review of 2nd-half of Fall Semester 2014

Week 10. Measuring Impacts using Household Survey Data
10/28 Impact evaluation in theory and practice
10/30 Indirect and unintended consequences

Week 11. Explaining policies: economics of the public sector
11/04 Markets: how far reaches the invisible hand?
11/06 Policy: how well can market failures be remedied?

Week 12. Rent-seeking and political economy
11/11 Political economy and public choice
11/13 The stylized facts of agricultural policy

Week 15. Political economy of agricultural policy
12/02 Political economy hypothesis tests

Some key concepts from the semester:

- development paradox
- structural transformation of economy/agriculture
- types of project evaluations, differences, key characteristics
- correlation vs. causation; attribution and counterfactuals
- confounders, controls and difference-in-difference estimators
- Harberger triangles (carryover from 1st half)
- economic explanations of public sector activity (policy rationales and policy options)
- sources of market failures, corrections and “welfare equivalence”
- externalities, marginal damage functions
- Coase Theorem, property rights and transaction costs
- political economy – history
- political economy theories – explanations of policy based on market failures (6)
- stylized facts of tariff protection and models (3) designed to explain observed patterns
- 7 specific hypotheses and supporting empirical evidence from Garcia and Masters
- evidence on gov’t effects on price stabilization
- patterns/trends in protection over time and across regions
- “concentrated benefits & diffuse losses”
- importance of net buyer/net seller status for incidence of price impacts
- exploitable yield gaps