

Economics 3403
International Economics and Policy
Spring 2014

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Office Hours: Tues. 10:50-12:15, 3:20-5:05; Thurs 10:50-12:15; Fridays by appointment
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Course Description:

In this course, we will study the theories, policies, and institutions of international trade and finance. The economic, political, and social forces underlying many of the issues involved in international economics are complex, multifaceted, and dynamic. They cannot be fully or easily analyzed in a professional lifetime, much less a one-semester course. They do, however, lend themselves extremely well to critical thinking and rational inquiry, which are the guiding principles of this course. Our goal is to become and remain informed about issues related to international economics and, even more importantly, acquire the ability to think about complex issues in a logical objective manner. Thinking critically is what permits us to differentiate between the illogical and the sensible, between the misleading use of statistics, misleading anecdotal evidence, and the reasonable interpretation of information.

Grading System I	
Preliminary Quiz	2%
Group/In-class Problems	8%
Problem Sets (1% each)	10%
Exam I (35min)	7%
Exam II (45min)	9%
Exam III (60min)	12%
Exam IV (75min)	15%
Exam V (75min)	15%
Final Exam	22%

Grading System II:	
Preliminary Quiz	2%
Problem Sets (1% each)	10%
Exam I (35min)	7%
Exam II (45min)	9%
Exam III (60min)	12%
Exam IV (75min)	15%
Exam V (75min)	15%
Final Exam	30%

You must notify me in advance of the first group inclass assignment if you wish to be graded by system II.

Grading Disputes

If you have a grading dispute, see your TA. If you cannot resolve the dispute with your TA, then your TA will contact me. Do NOT email me about a grading dispute.

If you have a dispute on a test, then you must put your issue in writing and submit it to your TA. Subsequently your entire exam will be regraded. Do NOT email me about a grading dispute+ grades cannot be discussed over email and I cannot respond to any grading questions over email!

Incompletes, Extra Credit, etc:

I adhere strictly to the University's policy on incompletes. Students beyond their control, have been unable to complete course requirements. A substantial amount of work must have been satisfactorily completed before approval for such a grade. Grades, unsatisfactory performance, too many credit hours, work conflicts, etc. are not reasons for an incomplete. I am adamant about giving each student an equal opportunity to perform well in the course, so there will be no extra credit opportunities that are not offered to the entire class. You should focus your efforts on learning the material and doing well on the exams.

Tentative Course Schedule

Introduction, Review
 Prelim quiz on 1/23
 General Equilibrium Modeling
 The Classical/Ricardian Trade Model
 Exam 1: Tuesday February 4th.
 The Hecksche/Ohlin Model
 The Specific Factors Model
 Evidence and Other Reasons for Trade
 Exam 2: Thursday, February 9th.

