

ECON 385: International Economic Policy

Fall 2024 | DL1 | Online Asynchronous

Instructor

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Course Description

Introduces economic way of thinking on trade and international finance. Presents historical and current information on consequences of trade and protectionism. Notes: Required for Global Affairs BA. May not be applied toward the elective course requirement needed for a major or minor in economics.

Learning Objectives

1. Learn the basic tools of economic theory as applied to topics of international policy.
2. Learn the causes and consequences of globalization, both narrowly economic (wealth, employment, inequality) and broadly social (cuisine, art, language).
3. Build intuition around important international policy debates including tariffs, quotas, immigration, free trade agreements, sanctions, exchange rates, foreign aid and development, and international agreements on climate, nuclear armaments, and AI.

Prerequisites

1. No course prerequisites.

Required Materials

1. Computer and internet access. All materials—reading, videos, recorded lectures—will be available through Canvas: canvas.gmu.edu.
2. Google account—some assignments will be administered with Google forms.
3. Donald Boudreaux. 2008. *Globalization*. Greenwood Publishing Group. Available online through GMU library.

Structure and Grading

There will be two exams (100 points each), two reflection essays (50 points each), and ten quizzes (10 points each). Thus there are 400 possible points. I will bump your two lowest quizzes up to a ten at the end of the term.

Quizzes and exams are timed, open book, open note.

Grade Breakdown:

Letter	Grade (/400)	Quality Points	Status
A+	96.7 - 100	4	Passing
A	93.4 - 96.6	4	Passing
A-	90.0 - 93.3	3.67	Passing
B+	86.7 - 89.9	3.33	Passing
B	83.4 - 86.6	3	Passing
B-	80.0 - 83.3	2.67	Passing
C+	76.7 - 79.9	2.33	Passing
C	73.4 - 76.6	2	Passing
C-	70.0 - 73.3	1.67	Passing
D	60.0 - 69.9	1	Passing
F	0.0 - 59.9	0	Failing

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Due
1	8.26 – 9.1	Introduction and the Big Questions	Quiz 1
2	9.2 – 0.8	The Lens of Economics	Quiz 2
3	9.9 – 9.15	Social Cooperation	Quiz 3
4	9.16 – 9.22	Production and Exchange	Reflection 1
5	9.23 – 9.29	Production and Exchange	Quiz 4
6	9.30 – 10.6	Knowledge and Prices	Quiz 5
7	10.7 – 10.13	Free Trade	Quiz 6
8	10.14 – 10.20 (Oct Break)	Study	Midterm Exam
9	10.21 – 20.27	Measuring Economic Progress	Quiz 7
10	10.28 – 11.3	Global Cultures	Quiz 8
11	11.4 – 11. 10	Labor and Immigration	Quiz 9
12	11.11 – 11.18	Foreign Aid and Development	Reflection 2
13	11.18 – 11.24	International Agreements	Quiz 10
14	11.25 – 12.1 (TG Break)	Study	
15	12.2 – 12. 8	Study	Final Exam

Policies

Technology

The use of LLMs and other AI tools is permitted, conditional on proper citation. Given the nature of the assignments, it would be imprudent to use them extensively.

Late work

Assignments will be deducted 10% per day submitted past the designated deadline. For example, a Reflection submitted five days late is eligible for a maximum of 25 out of 50 points. You may email me *before* the deadline if you think you have a valid exception.

Academic Integrity

Mason is an Honor Code university; please see <https://oai.gmu.edu/full-honor-code-document/> for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken seriously. What does academic integrity mean in this course? When you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt, please ask for guidance and clarification.

Disability Accommodations

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu / Phone: (703) 993-2474