



ECON 385: International Economic Policy

Spring 2025 | 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). This adds up to 400 total points.

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	1.21 – 1.26	Introduction and the Big Questions	Quiz 1
2	1.27 – 2.2	The Lens of Economics	Quiz 2
3	2.3 – 2.9	Social Cooperation	Quiz 3
4	2.10 – 2.16	Production and Exchange	Reflection 1
5	2.17 – 2.23	Production and Exchange	Quiz 4
6	2.24 – 3.2	Knowledge and Prices	Quiz 5
7	3.3 – 3.9	Study	Midterm Exam
8	3.10 – 3.16	(Spring Break)	
9	3.17 – 3.23	Free Trade	Quiz 6
10	3.24 – 3.30	Measuring Economic Progress	Quiz 7
11	3.31 – 4.6	Global Cultures	Quiz 8
12	4.7 – 4.13	Labor and Immigration	Reflection 2
13	4.14 – 4.20	Foreign Aid and Development	Quiz 9
14	4.28 – 5.4	International Agreements	Quiz 10
15	5.5 – 5.11	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% credit 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.

George Mason University Common Policies

Please visit <https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/home/gmu-common-course-policies/> for additional information and support.

Academic Standards

Academic Standards exist to promote authentic scholarship, support the institution's goal of maintaining high standards of academic excellence, and encourage continued ethical behavior of faculty and students to cultivate an educational community which values integrity and produces graduates who carry this commitment forward into professional practice.

As members of the George Mason University community, we are committed to fostering an environment of trust, respect, and scholarly excellence. Our academic standards are the foundation of this commitment, guiding our behavior and interactions within this academic community. The practices for implementing these standards adapt to modern practices, disciplinary contexts, and technological advancements. Our standards are embodied in our courses, policies, and scholarship, and are upheld in the following principles:

- **Honesty:** Providing accurate information in all academic endeavors, including communications, assignments, and examinations.
- **Acknowledgement:** Giving proper credit for all contributions to one's work. This involves the use of accurate citations and references for any ideas, words, or materials created by others in the style appropriate to the discipline. It also includes acknowledging shared authorship in group projects, co-authored pieces, and project reports.
- **Uniqueness of Work:** Ensuring that all submitted work is the result of one's own effort and is original, including free from self-plagiarism. This principle extends to written assignments, code, presentations, exams, and all other forms of academic work.

Violations of these standards—including but not limited to plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating—are taken seriously and will be addressed in accordance with university policies. The process for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating violations is [outlined in the university's procedures](#). Consequences of violations may include academic sanctions, disciplinary actions, and other measures necessary to uphold the integrity of our academic community.

The principles outlined in these academic standards reflect our collective commitment to upholding the highest standards of honesty, acknowledgement, and uniqueness of work. By adhering to these principles, we ensure the continued excellence and integrity of George Mason University's academic community.

Student responsibility: Students are responsible for understanding how these general expectations regarding academic standards apply to each course, assignment, or exam they participate in; students should ask their instructor for clarification on any aspect that is not clear to them.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to upholding the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. Under the administration of University Life, Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. Students can begin the registration process with Disability Services at any time during their enrollment at George Mason University. If you are seeking accommodations, please visit <https://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu. Phone: (703) 993-2474.

Student responsibility: Students are responsible for registering with Disability Services and communicating about their approved accommodations with their instructor in advance of any relevant class meeting, assignment, or exam.

FERPA and Use of GMU Email Addresses for Course Communication

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) governs the disclosure of [education records for eligible students](#) and is an essential aspect of any course. **Students must use their GMU email account** to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. Instructors will not respond to messages sent from or send messages regarding course content to a non-GMU email address.

Student responsibility: Students are responsible for checking their GMU email regularly for course-related information, and/or ensuring that GMU email messages are forwarded to an account they do check.

Title IX Resources and Required Reporting

As a part of George Mason University's commitment to providing a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender in any of its education or employment programs and activities. Accordingly, **all non-confidential employees, including your faculty member, have a legal requirement to report to the Title IX Coordinator, all relevant details obtained directly or indirectly about any incident of Prohibited Conduct** (such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, gender-based stalking, dating/domestic violence). Upon notifying the Title IX Coordinator of possible Prohibited Conduct, the Title IX Coordinator will assess the report and determine if outreach is required. If outreach is required, the individual the report is about (the "Complainant") will receive a communication, likely in the form of an email, offering that person the option to meet with a representative of the Title IX office.

For more information about non-confidential employees, resources, and Prohibited Conduct, please see [University Policy 1202: Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence](#). Questions regarding Title IX can be directed to the Title IX Coordinator via email to TitleIX@gmu.edu, by phone at 703-993-8730, or in person on the Fairfax campus in Aquia 373.

Student opportunity: If you prefer to speak to someone **confidentially**, please contact one of Mason's confidential employees in Student Support and Advocacy ([SSAC](#)), Counseling and Psychological Services ([CAPS](#)), Student Health Services ([SHS](#)), and/or the [Office of the University Ombudsperson](#).