

International Economic Policy

ECONOMICS 385-002 - Fall 2014

Planet 206

Tues. and Thur. (3 PM – 4:15 PM)

Instructor: Joy Buchanan

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Office Hours: By appointment

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1. Course Description

The goal of this course is to advance your understanding of international policy using economic logic. The main topics will include trade, foreign aid, globalization, and international finance. The skills this class is intended to teach are economic reasoning and writing, which is essential to most policy-related jobs. I will teach how math can be used to communicate, but no college-level preparation in math or economics is required or expected. We will begin by building a toolkit of general economic concepts and then learn how these ideas apply to international policy issues.

To demonstrate knowledge of the course material there will be writing assignments, and a presentation in addition to homework and an exam. A more detailed list of assignments and due dates will be provided for students on the first day of class.

2. Grading

Your grade will be based upon the following categories:

- Homework 10%
- Writing Assignment 15%
- Presentation 15%
- Midterm Exam 30%
- Final Paper 30%

Any assignments turned in late will be docked 10% for each day that they are late. An assignment is late after the end of the class period in which it was due. I strongly recommend finishing assignments before they are due; doing otherwise invites the risk of life's various emergencies making you late for which you will lose points.

Your writing will be graded for clarity as well as content. An abstract of your final paper will be due before the paper is due. Review honorcode.gmu.edu for information on the serious offense of plagiarism. Papers must be printed out and brought to class.

Final grades will follow the traditional scale:

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	0-59

It is important that you view the dates of the following online: Last day to add classes/Drop with no tuition penalty, Last day to drop (33% tuition penalty), Last day to drop (67% tuition penalty), and Selective Withdrawal Period.

3. Course Materials

People who want to study economic and international policy have access to a vast amount of reading material on the internet. You may be reading supplementary articles and papers that are accessible on the internet. Students should keep up with current publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Economist* or *Foreign Affairs* during this class.

Technical economics will be taught from class notes that will be posted online. Students who wish for more detail or instruction on microeconomic theory are encouraged to read any undergraduate textbook on that subject but will not be required to purchase a textbook.

Books (Required)

- *Economics in One Lesson* by Henry Hazlitt (Available Free Online)
- *The Rational Optimist* by Matt Ridley

4. University Policies

Note about Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services at 703.993.2474 or ods.gmu.edu. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Mason Email Accounts: Students must activate their GMU email accounts to receive Important University information, including messages related to this class.