

**INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY**  
**ECON 385-002 (CRN: 10662)**  
**George Mason University**  
**Spring 2017; TR 1:30-2:45**  
**Robinson Hall B203**

**Instructor:** Colin Doran

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**Office hours:** TBD

**Course Objective:** The primary objective of the course is to enable you understand and apply basic economic logic to various international economic policies. We will spend some time discussing the history of international affairs. Following a review of the history, we will be reviewing and discussing basic microeconomic theory. I teach the course having in mind that not every student is an economics major. The remainder of the course will be spent focusing on applying economic theory to international topics such as trade, globalization, finance, protectionism, public policy, cultural diversity, and economic development.

**Course Materials:** The required course materials are listed below.

*Power and Plenty* by Kevin O'Rourke and Ronald Findlay  
ISBN-13: 978-0691143279

An Introduction to International Economics by Kenneth Reinert  
ISBN-13: 978-0521177108

Recommended (We will be reading the book below but copies can be found online for no cost):

*An Inquiry into the the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith

I will assign a few other miscellaneous readings throughout the semester. These will be posted to Blackboard.

**Grading:** Grades will be broken down as follows:

Midterm – 15%

Final Exam – 30%

Project – 35%

Homework and Participation – 20%

**EXAMS:** There will be two exams throughout the semester (a midterm and a final) on the lectures and the reading material. The exams will be a mix of multiple choice and short answer

questions. I do not post my lecture notes online therefore attendance is crucial to performance on the exams. I am available for help via e-mail, after class, or by appointment.

I do not offer makeup exams. If you are sick on the day of a midterm exam, I require a doctors note. In such cases, I shift the weight of the missed midterm to the final exam. Similarly, if you become sick on the day of the final, I will likewise require a doctors note. In such cases, I will shift the weight of the final exam to your paper, which will then comprise 45% of your grade. **If you miss an exam and do not substantiate your absence, you will receive a score of 0 for that exam.**

**Project:** The project will consist of selecting a country and garnering support for aid in that country. This will be done as a group project. I will explain the project more in-depth at the beginning of the semester. The general idea will be that each class member will be allotted a dollar amount to hand out for aid to the countries. Your grade will be based off:

- How well you have presented/studied your country
- How convincing you have been as to why your country deserves aid
- How much money you obtain from your classmates
- How well you work together as a group/team

**Participation and Homework:** You will be required to participate and also required to turn in all homework assignments. At the end of the semester if I feel you have contributed at least a few times throughout the semester and you have also handed in your homework you will receive full credit on this part of the grade (pending the homework is done honestly and correctly). I also reserve the right to bump a students grade up one level (i.e. A- to A) if I feel they have gone above and beyond in participation. This will give you incentive to contribute to class conversation. **Hint:** The bulk of my tests are based *solely* off my lecture notes, and therefore, showing up to my class is not only vital to receiving a high grade, but crucial for preparing for exams. In class, I frequently mention what you will be tested on, and as mentioned above, I do not deviate from my lecture notes when building an exam. I am not trying to trick you, I just want to see you are learning and engaging the material!

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is obviously a serious offense. Your papers should be your own original work. If you are unsure as to what constitutes plagiarism, please see the George Mason Honor Code: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>. If I find that you have plagiarized, I will fail you for the course and you will be reported to the George Mason Honor Committee.

### **Important Dates:**

1/30: Last day to add classes; last day to drop without penalty

3/13-3/19: Spring Break

5/6: Last day of classes

5/8-5/9: Reading days

**5/16: Final exam**

**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 arrangements concerning disabilities must be made through that office.

## **TENTATIVE LIST OF TOPICS/READING SCHEDULE [subject to change]:**

### **Abbreviations:**

Power and Plenty = PP

An Introduction to International Economics = IIE

Wealth of Nations = WN

[All other readings can be found on Blackboard]

<b>Class</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings/Assigned Material</b>
Week 1 1/23-1/29	Syllabus; Introduction; History of International Economics	Select Readings from Power and Plenty; IIE Chapter 1; <i>HW WN Book I Ch. I-IV (Pg. 13-46)</i>
Week 2 1/30-2/5	History of International Economics; Economics Review	Select Readings from Power and Plenty; IIE Chapter 2
Week 3 2/6-2/12	The Power of Trade: Comparative Advantage; Intra-Industry Trade	IIE Chapter 3-4; <i>HW Practice Problems</i>
Week 4 2/13-2/19	Political Economy of Trade	IIE Chapter 5; Select Readings from Power and Plenty; <i>HW WN Book IV Ch. II (Pg. 452-472)</i>
Week 5 2/20-2/26	Trade Policy	IIE Chapter 6
Week 6 2/27-3/5	Trade Agreements and Trade Deals	IIE Chapter 7-8; No class 3/2 I am presenting a paper in New Orleans
Week 7 3/6-3/12	Review, finish up material, and Midterm	Midterm
Week 8 3/13-3/19	<b>Spring Break</b>	No Reading
Week 9 3/20-3/26	International Production and Migration	IIE Chapters 9-12
Week 10 3/27-4/2	Accounting Frameworks, Exchange Rates, and Interest Rates	IIE Chapters 13-16; <i>HW 3 TBD</i>
Week 11 4/3-4/9	IMF, World Bank, and Crises	IIE Chapters 17, 18, and 23
Week 12 4/10-4/16	Monetary Economics and Development Economics	IIE Chapters 19-20; <i>HW 4 TBD</i>
Week 13 4/17-4/23	Institutions and Growth theory	IIE Chapter 21; Select Readings from Power and Plenty
Week 14 4/24-4/30	Projects begin	
Week 16 5/1-5/7	Projects	I will hold a review class at a TBD time for the Final!
Week 17 5/7-5/11/6	<b>Final Exam (30%)</b>	5/16 is the date of the Final