

Economics 385 -International Economy Policy
Mr. John S. Schuler
Summer 2017 Session C
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1 Course Description

This course focuses on arguments surrounding international trade and its history. In the course of our study, we will examine the relevant economic theory and institutions. You should complete this course with a solid understanding of the arguments for and against international trade and be able to articulate which you find persuasive and why. *This syllabus is tentative. Any changes I make will be announced in class and an updated syllabus will be uploaded to Blackboard.* Therefore, if you wish to be absolutely sure of something, look at the syllabus posted on Blackboard.

2 Textbook

Globalization (Greenwood Press 2008) by Donald Boudreaux. I will distribute other readings through the semester. It is available in the book store or on Amazon.

3 Office Hours

Office hours will be held immediately after class each day. Please tell me before class that you would like to meet. I should be free to do so with rare exceptions.

4 Seminars and Written Responses

Three Thursdays will be dedicated to discussing readings relevant to the course material. The material will be posted on Blackboard.

You are required to write a short 1-2 page response paper on each seminar reading. You are expected to come to class having read the materials. For the first two seminars, the paper on the reading will be due on the day of the following seminar. For the third, the paper will be due with the final exam. The purpose of these responses is for you to engage with the author's argument. What about the reading do you find most perplexing? Do you agree or not and if not, why not? These responses need only reference the relevant seminar reading. You are also free to reference material discussed in class. My purpose is to encourage careful reading of and thinking about the assignments. Supplementary research is therefore *discouraged*. These are not research papers.

Seminar I	Bastiat's <i>What is Seen and Not Seen</i>
Seminar II	Bastiat's <i>Economic Sophisms</i> , Part I Ch 1,6,10,17
Seminar III	<i>Economic Sophisms</i> Part I Ch 19-20, Part II 5,13

5 Grading

This course has two midterms, a final, three short essays and a presentation. The intent of the number of assignments is to allow you to do well in the course without necessarily having to do well on everything. Thus, the course is 50% exams. If your final is better than your midterms, the final will count for the entirety of this 50%. Otherwise, the final will count for 25% of the grade and each midterm will count for 12.5 %. Consider the midterms to be informational. They will tell you what you need to work on. The presentation will be 25% of your grade. The remaining 25% will be the *best* of your four written responses.

5.1 Presentations

You are encouraged to be looking for news articles or opinion essays relevant to the course material throughout the semester. The final week of the semester, you will present an analysis of one such piece to the class. I am interested in the extent to which the author understands the relevant issues? Also, do they seem aware of the positive-normative distinction? *You must have me approve your article by the 20th of July.*

6 Important Dates

Seminar I	6/29/2017
No Class	7/4-5 /2017
Midterm I	7/10/2017
Seminar II and Paper I due, and Article Approval	7/13/2017
Seminar III, Paper II due	7/20/2017
Midterm II	7/24/2017
Presentations	7/25-26/2017
Final Exam and Paper III due	7/30/2017

7 Audio Recording

Feel free to record my lectures though please do not post them online. Sharing recordings with classmates is fine. Recording seminars is forbidden however. Students should feel free to take intellectual risks without worrying that they are being recorded.

8 Honor Code

George Mason University has a rigorous honor code. Please consult the student handbook to learn the expectations established by the honor code, as well as the procedures for its compliance and enforcement. Cheating will not be tolerated.

9 Special Accomodations

I am happy to make reasonable accomodations for documented disabilities. Please arrange this through the Disabilities Office.

10 Tentative Outline of the Semester

The readings are an additional resource for you over and above the lectures. The examinations will only contain material lectured on therefore the readings are recommended but not required.

10.1 Review of the Economic Way of Thinking

Reading: Be sure you are familiar with the material in Armen Alchian's *Exchange and Production*, Chapters 1-4.

10.2 Economic Growth

Reading: TBA

10.3 Globalization

Reading: Globalization Ch 1

10.4 Free Trade and Prosperity

Reading: Globalization Ch 2

10.5 The Case for Free-Trade

Reading: Globalization Ch 3

10.6 Trade, Jobs and Wages

Reading: Globalization Ch 4

10.7 Arguments Against Free-Trade

Reading: Globalization Ch 5

10.8 Trade Balance

Reading: Globalization Ch 6

10.9 Global Institutions

Reading: Globalization Ch 7-8

10.10 Anthropological Perspectives on Globalization

Reading: TBA