

George Mason University
International Economic Policy ECON 385-003
Tuesday, 7:20-10:00 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Ekaterina Brancato

Office Hours: By appointment only (contact me in advance by email or by phone)

Email: Ekaterina.Brancato@gmail.com. This is the best way to reach me.

Phone: My phone number will be posted via blackboard message after the first week of classes (**PLEASE NO TEXT MESSAGES**, for record keeping purposes – email. *If you send a text message, assume that I will have **no** knowledge of contents*).

Important note for students: Mason uses only Mason e-mail accounts to communicate with enrolled students. Students must activate their Mason e-mail account, use it to communicate with their department and other administrative units, and check it regularly for important university information including messages related to this class. **All messaging through the blackboard will be sent to your GMU mail account.**

Objectives/Course Overview:

The objective of the course is to gain an understanding of how various international policies affect people in the U.S. and in the world today and to gain historical knowledge of the most important international policy developments. You will be introduced to common sense economics and the economic way of thinking first and then to the topics in international economics and trade. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the basic material presented in class and supplemented by reading assignments, on improving economic problem-solving skills, and on refining the understanding of international issues from an economic perspective.

Basic principles of international economics and globalization form the underlying theme of this course, touching on areas of trade, intellectual property, protectionism, income distribution, cultural diversity, development, and finance. *The course will emphasize the role of market institutions in the coordination of international economic activity.*

Class meetings will consist of lecture and discussion of assigned reading and related topics. *All assignments must be completed before class.* **This class involves a very large amount of reading. The pre-requisite is ability to express your thoughts very well in English and ability to handle fairly complicated texts.**

Text and Reading Assignments:

Required:

Common Sense Economics by James Gwartney et al. [I highly recommend the latest (2010) edition, however, an earlier one would suffice with perfect class attendance]

Globalization by Donald Boudreaux

The Armchair Economist by Steven Landsburg (2012 edition)

The Future and Its Enemies by Virginia Postrel

Recommended:

In Defense of Global Capitalism by Johan Norberg and *From Subsistence to Exchange and Other Essays* by Peter Bauer

Additional reading assignments will be posted on blackboard periodically, usually a week in advance. If you are not in class, it is your responsibility to keep track of assignments and announcements. Some reading assignments may be sent via email; it is still your responsibility to make sure that you are up-to-date on the reading. Email me if you are not sure.

Grades [Your final grade will be according to the scale on the right – IN POINTS]:

Grades	% of total
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	30%

Points	Grade
93-95 points	A
90-92 points	A-
87-89 points	B+
84-86 points	B
80-83 points	B-
77-79 points	C+
74-76 points	C
70-73 points	C-
64-69 points	D
Below 63 points	F

Exams:

There will be three exams. Typically, the second and third exams are comprehensive. Exams are either in class – pencil and scantron – or via blackboard. You may not use any notes, text or any other supplemental materials during the exam.

Attendance:

Attendance is required and will be taken each class. Each unexcused absences will yield 1 point deduction from your total grade. Some of the exam material will be covered only in class. I reserve the right to distribute lecture power point slides and other supporting material only to those who attended and without any prior notice. I WILL do this if I see attendance going down.

Honor Code: Simply put, no cheating or plagiarism. When preparing your presentation, it is perfectly fine to incorporate works by others, as long as it is referenced properly and as long as there is an analytical part written exclusively by you. **If caught, your latest assignment or test will yield 0 points – no exceptions.**

Disability Resource Center: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please notify me and contact the Disability Resource Center at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Schedule of Classes
(may be amended throughout the course)

Date	Exams/Paper	Topics	Topics Amended
24-Jan	Lecture 1 Intro	Overview/ Basic Economic Principles 1	
31-Jan	Lecture 2	Basic Economic Principles 1	
7-Feb	Lecture 2	Basic Economic Principles 2	
14-Feb	Lecture 3	Basic Economic Principles 3	
21-Feb	Lecture 4	Basic Economic Principles 4	
28-Feb	1st exam		
7-Mar	Lecture 5	Intellectual History of Trade/Intro to International Markets/Globalization	
14-Mar	Break		
21-Mar	Lecture 6	Globalization: Ideas and International Policies -- Hunting the Ghost of Exports	
28-Mar	Lecture 7	Globalization: Economic Development/Aid	
4-Apr	Lecture 8	Globalization	
11-Apr	2nd exam		
18-Apr	Lecture 9	Emerging markets	
25-Apr	Lecture 10	The U.S./The Eurozone/The EU	
2-May	Lecture 11	Future and Its Enemies: Determinism, Chaos Theory, Schumpeter and more	
16-May	Final exam 7:30-10:00 p.m.		