

Welcome to ECON 385

International Economic Policy

I. Contact Information

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II. Course Overview

Catalog Description: Introduces economic way of thinking on trade and international finance. Presents historical and current information on consequences of trade and protectionism.

Learning Outcomes: This course is a core requirement for the global affairs major. The primary learning outcome is for students to understand the economic concepts and theories that are relevant to international policies such as trade policy, currency stabilization policy, international aid, and immigration. Learning outcomes will be demonstrated through written assignments and exams.

Topics Covered: Below is a list of the **concepts, theories, and policies** that will be covered in the class:

- Production Possibility Frontier
- Theory of Comparative Advantage
- Supply and Demand Theory
- Price Determination in a Market
- Market Distortion
- Market Failure
- Trade Policy (Tariffs, Quotas, Subsidies)
- Immigration Policy
- Outsourcing/Sweatshops
- Currency Stabilization Policy
- Foreign Aid and Economic Development

Readings & Textbooks: The specific reading assignments will be provided after each lecture to allow for flexibility in responding to students' interest. Most readings will be drawn from the following textbooks:

Mankiw, G. (2017). *Principles of Economics*. 8th Edition. South-Western College Pub

Additional readings will be posted on the course site at <http://mymason.gmu.edu>

Course Assignments with Due Dates and Weights:

- Short Assignments 30%
- Policy Blog 15%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Final Exam 30%

Grading Scale (as a percentage):

A +	100-97	B	86 – 83	C-	72 – 70
A	96 – 93	B-	82 – 80	D	69 – 60
A -	92 – 90	C+	79 – 77	F	59 – 0
B+	89 – 87	C	76 – 73		

Assignment Descriptions:

Short Assignments- Each week this semester there will be short assignments that may include a problem set, a brief essay question, and/or a reading summary. All assignments will be uploaded to the Blackboard site. **These will be due on Tuesdays at noon and late short assignments will not be accepted** but your lowest grades will be dropped when calculating the final grade for these assignments.

Policy Blog – Each student must complete 1 blog post and create 3 comments on 3 different blog posts that all address international economic policy. Students will be assigned a topic (trade policy, immigration, or foreign aid policy) and a due date for their post. The post should be a brief summary of an **opinion article** written by a professional economist. The summary should explain the policy recommendation given in the opinion article. A comment should include a reference to a source to a **news article** or **government report** that is related to the post. The comment should explain why the source is related to the post.

Course Outline:

All assignments will be submitted through Blackboard through the folder of the corresponding week. **Each assignment is due by noon on the due date.**

Weeks	Topics	Assignments Due	Due Date
Week 1	Basic Principles	Short Assignment	June 9 th
Week 2	PPF and Trade	Short Assignment	June 16 th
Week 3	Supply & Demand	Short Assignment	June 23 th
Week 4	Efficiency & Equity	Short Assignment	June 30 th
Week 5	Review	Midterm Exam	July 7 th
Week 6	Trade Policy	Short Assignment Policy Blog Post (Trade)	July 14 th
Week 7	Immigration Policy	Short Assignment Policy Blog Post (Immigration) Blog Comment (Trade)	July 21 st
Week 8	Foreign Aid	Short Assignment Policy Blog Post (Aid) Blogs Comment (Immigration)	July 28 th
Week 9	Review	Policy Blog Posts (Make-up) Blogs Comment (Aid)	August 4 th
Final	Final Exam	Final Exam	August 7 th

Additional details about each assignment will be posted on Blackboard in the corresponding week folder.

III. **Course Policies:**

Course Expectations: It is expected that all readings will be completed each week. *In addition, this class requires significant writing assignments as well as familiarity with graphing and algebraic computations.* If you find yourself struggling with the material at any time, please make an appointment to talk with me as soon as possible. I have strategies that might be helpful.

Class Participation: Regular class participation is necessary to have a successful experience in this course. **In addition, I cannot offer a make-up exam without a valid excused absence.** If you are unable to participate in class for an excusable reason, please contact me as soon as possible so other arrangements can be made.

Communication: Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

Honor Code: Students are expected to abide by the Honor Code in its entirety in completing all requirements for this course. The Honor Code parameters will differ depending on the assignment and will be clearly explained for each assignment. If at any time you are unsure about the Honor Code implications for a particular assignment, ask for clarification.

Important: No person should be denied educational access because of a disability. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.