

# Welcome to ECON 385: International Economic Policy

Section D01: 3 credit hours

---

## Contact Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Jason Dunick

**Office Phone:** 703-993-1141

**Email:** jdunick@gmu.edu

**Virtual Office Hours:** By Appointment, please feel free to email me to arrange a time.

## Course Overview

### Catalog Description

This is a course that introduces the economic way of thinking on trade and international finance. Presents historical and current information on consequences of trade and protectionism.

### Recommended Prerequisite

None

### 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, international aid, and immigration. Success in this outcome will be demonstrated through short assignments, blog posts, and examinations.

### 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 Model
- Price Determination in a Market
- Market Distortion
- Market Failure
- Trade Policy (Tariffs, Quotas, and Subsidies)
- Immigration Policy
- Economics of Low-wage Work
- Foreign Aid and Economic Development

### Section Description

This particular section will be an asynchronous online course. This means that we will not meet together as a class at the same time. Students will have weekly due dates for reading assignments and written work but they can review the material and complete these assignments any time throughout the week. **For this class, each week begins on Monday and concludes on the following Sunday at 11:59pm.** Most of the work will need to be completed individually but there will be small group assignments to assist in student learning.

### Course Components with Weighting

Below is a table of the assignments and exams for the course with the associated weighting.

Assignments	Due Date	Weight
MindTap Problems & Applications	Weekly- Sundays at 11:59pm	15%
Policy Blog Post (1)	Weekly- Sundays at 11:59pm after the Midterm	10%
Policy Blog Comments (3)	Weekly- Sundays at 11:59pm after first posts are due	10%
Midterm Exam	June 26 <sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm	30%
Final Exam	July 31 <sup>st</sup> at 11:59pm	35%

### Grading Scale

Grade	Score as %	Grade	Score as %
A +	100 – 97%	C+	79 – 77%
A	96 – 93%	C	76 – 73%
A -	92 – 90%	C-	72 – 69%
B+	89 – 87%	D	68 – 60%
B	86 – 83%	F	59 – 0 %
B-	82 – 80%		

### Textbook and Required Resources

- Mankiw, G. *Principles of Economics*. 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. Cengage Publishing

- A subscription to MindTap from Cengage for the problems and applications assignments as well as additional resources to supplement the textbook such as interactive media and practice problems.

-Additional reading assignments will also be posted through the Blackboard site and accessible through one of Mason's Library Databases.

## Assignment Descriptions

### MindTap Problems & Applications

Each week we cover new content, there will be an opportunity for you to demonstrate your fluency in the economic concepts we have covered through graded problems and applications. This will be available through Cengage's online platform called MindTap ([www.cengage.com](http://www.cengage.com)). This resource will provide instantly graded problems and applications as well as additional resources to supplement the textbook such as interactive media and additional practice problems.

For the graded problems, you will have up to three opportunities to demonstrate your fluency and the system will take the best score of the three. You will also have access to practice problems that are not graded. In calculating your final grade for these assignments, the lowest grade among all of the weeks will be dropped to account for any unforeseen circumstances that might prevent your full participation. This includes documented or undocumented absences. Problem sets should be completed weekly but the final deadline is 11:59pm on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Overall, this assignment is designed to get formative feedback on your learning before taking the midterm and final exam.

### Policy Blog Post and Blog Comments

After the midterm exam, each student must complete **1 blog post** and create **3 comments** on 3 different blog post topics that all address an international economic policy. Students will be assigned a topic (trade policy, immigration, or foreign aid policy) and a due date for their post.

**The blog post** should be a brief summary of an **opinion article** written by a professional economist. This summary should explain the policy recommendation given in the opinion article. Blog posts should be at least 2 paragraphs long. No late posts will be accepted. There is an opportunity to revise or make-up a missed blog post later in the semester. The final grade for the revised blog posts will be an average of the two blog post grades.

**The blog 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 found is related to the original post. You can only post one comment per week and comments should be at least 3-5 sentences long. To receive full credit, you must have your comments submitted by each of the deadlines for all three topics.

### Exams

Students will be expected to complete a midterm exam and a final exam. The exams will be open book and open note; however, all of your answers should be in your own words without direct quotes and should be individually created and submitted. If additional sources are used to support your answers besides the sources provided through the lecture, textbook, and other course reading assignments, then citations will be required. Lack of proper documentation of outside sources will result in a substantial grade penalty—when in doubt, provide a citation in your text and in a works-cited page for each exam. You will have a minimum of 5 days to complete the exam and you will be expected to adhere to Mason's Honor Code to ensure academic integrity.

## Course Schedule

Week	Topics Covered and Textbook Reading Assignment*	Assignments Due	Dues Dates**
Week 1	Introduction & Economic Models (PPF) Chapter 1 & 2	MindTap Assignment	5/29/2021
Week 2	Theory of Comparative Advantage Chapter 3	MindTap Assignment	6/5/2021
Week 3	Supply and Demand Model Chapter 4	MindTap Assignment	6/12/2021
Week 4	Supply and Demand Model Chapter 5	MindTap Assignment	6/19/2021
Week 5	Efficiency and Equity in a Market Chapter 7 & 23	MindTap Assignment	6/26/2021
Week 6	<b>Exam Week</b>	<b>Midterm</b>	<b>7/3/2021</b>
Week 7	International Trade Policy Chapter 9 & 31	Blog Post (if assigned) MindTap Assignment	7/10/2021
Week 8	Immigration & Low Wage Work Chapter 18 & 28	Blog Post (if assigned) Blog Comment (Trade) MindTap Assignment	7/17/2021
Week 9	International Aid Chapter 25	Blog Post (if assigned) Blog Comment (Immigr.) MindTap Assignment	7/24/2021
Week 10	<b>Review/Exam Week</b>	Make-up Blog Post Blog Comment (Aid) <b>Final Exam</b>	7/31/2021

\*Additional reading assignments may be posted through Blackboard

\*\*All assignments and exams are due at 11:59pm on the assigned day

## Course Policies

### Online Course Environment

This course will be offered as an online asynchronous course. Students will need to access this course's Blackboard site for reading assignments, lectures, and to upload assignments and exams. For individual discussions about grades in the course, please send an email through your MasonLive email account. In needed, phone meeting or a web conference can be set-up as well. For general questions about the course material, students are strongly encouraged to post questions to the "Ask the Instructor" discussion board on the course's Blackboard site.

### Technology Statement

This [link](#) provides information about the technology needed for this course. In addition, all students and faculty are expected to adhere to the University's commitment to responsible computing.

**Communication:**

Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class about grades. Questions related to the course content and assignments should be posted to the “Ask the Instructor” discussion board. This will be monitored daily during the work week. Students should expect a response within 48 hours when a message is sent Monday through Thursday. All other times expect a 48- to 72-hour response time. **Questions about a current assignment must be submitted by noon on Fridays in order to be addressed prior to the 11:59pm deadline on Sunday.**

**Make-Up Work:**

The final deadline for all MindTap work to be submitted is the same as the due date for the final exam listed in the course schedule (although it is recommended that this work is completed weekly). Late work for blog posts and blog comments will not be accepted. Instead, a make-up blog post will be available towards the end of the semester (see the course schedule for the exact date). The exam due dates can only be extended in an extraordinary circumstance *but only if arrangements are made with the instructor before the due date of the exam.*

**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. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.