

**George Mason University**

**Department of Economics**

**Economics 385: International Economic Policy**

**Spring 2023**

### **Syllabus and Reading List**

Instructor: Zane Mullins

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Class Meetings: Horizon 4014, MW from 10:30-11:45 AM

### **Course Description**

The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the salient issues involving international trade. This course will be roughly equal parts economic theory and history. The first half of the course will focus on issues surrounding international exchange, such as trade policy and barriers. The second half will involve more macroeconomic and monetary topics.

This course does not count as an elective for the economics major and is intended for students with little to no background in economics. The first three weeks of class will be mostly focused on the review of economic principles which will be important to know as we progress through the course.

### **Communication**

I do not have a physical office location, but I will be happy to talk with students before or after class. The best way to contact me will be at my George Mason email address. I will also be happy to make myself available for zoom meetings.

### **Grade Requirements:**

**Midterm (20%)**

**Final (20%)**

**Homework Exercises (10%)**

**Short Essays (40%, 10% each)**

**Class Participation (10%)**

This course will rely more heavily on written assignments in comparison to tests or homeworks. I believe frequent homework's, quizzes, and tests tend to promote rote memorization in lieu of facilitating a genuine understanding of the material. Furthermore, the most important and often overlooked ability that you will acquire in college is writing. You will write to communicate

with your colleagues and peers regardless of your career path for the rest of your lives. I hope that the written assignments will promote critical and analytic thinking in conjunction with developing your skills as writers. I will assign short essays every two or three weeks with a prompt of my choosing directly related to the readings and lectures. There will be 4 in total. They should be 2-3 pages long and will be designed to make you critically engage with the course material. All papers should be written in a standard format (12-point font, double spaced, 1-inch margins). I will be happy to discuss any of the papers with students, including providing feedback on drafts to make sure you are on the right track before submission.

You will also be assigned a couple of small homework exercises to help reinforce important subjects discussed in class. These will be graded based on student effort. If you apply yourselves, you will do well.

Lastly, I have decided to include an attendance grade related to class participation. This is normally a very easy way to boost grades if you regularly attend and participate in the class. I will not be strictly taking attendance but will be more focused on participation in class discussions.

### **Assigned Readings**

*In Defense of Globalization*, Jagdish Bhagwati

*The Globalization Paradox*, Dani Rodrik

These two texts form the backbone of the course. They present an interesting dichotomy that we will use to analyze the political and economic aspects of international economic policy.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **1. George Mason University Honor System and Honor Code**

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. Plagiarism (statements from Mason Web Site) Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving that person credit. <http://mason.gmu.edu/montecin/plagiarism.htm#plagiarism> Please familiarize yourself with the Honor System and Code, as stated in the George Mason University Undergraduate Catalog. When you are given an assignment as an individual, the work must be your own. Some of your work may be collaborative; source material for group projects and work of individual group members must be carefully documented for individual contributions. <http://mason.gmu.edu/montecin/plagiarism.htm>

### **2. Class Registration**

Students are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their own schedules. Students need to check Patriot Web regularly to verify that they are registered for the classes that they think they are. This is particularly important since students are no longer dropped for nonpayment. Faculty may not allow a student who is not registered to continue to attend class and may not grade the work of students who do not appear on the official class roster. Deadlines each semester are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Web Site [registrar.gmu.edu](http://registrar.gmu.edu) After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

### **3. Accommodations for students with disabilities**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. The need for accommodations should be identified at the beginning of the semester and the specific accommodation has to be arranged through the Office of Disability Resources. Faculty cannot provide accommodations to students on their own (e.g. allowing a student extra time to complete an exam because the student reports having a disability).

### **4. Campus Closure**

If the campus closes or class is canceled due to weather or other concern, students should check the class webpage and monitor their email for updates on how to continue learning and information about any changes to events or assignments.

## **Course Schedule and Reading Assignments**

### **Week 1- Ancient Economic Policy, Mercantilism, Enlightenment Europe, Absolute and Comparative Advantage**

Rodrik Introduction and ch.1

Bhagwati ch.1

### **Week 2- Thinking Like an Economist Pt.1**

Rodrik ch.2, ch.3

Bhagwati ch.2,

### **Week 3- Thinking Like an Economist Pt.2**

### **Week 4- Tariffs, Quotas, National Income Accounting**

Bhagwati ch.12

### **Week 5- Monopoly, Infant Industry Protections, Trade Disputes**

Rodrik ch.3, ch.9

Bhagwati ch.5, ch.6, ch.7, ch.9, ch.10, ch.11. ch.16

### **Week 6- The Political Economy of International Trade, Institutions, and Exchange**

Bhagwati ch.17

### **Week 7- Midterm**

### **Week 8- International Gold Standard, Bretton Woods, Currency Areas**

Rodrik Ch.2, ch.4

### **Week 9- Forex Market, Models of Interest Rate Arbitrage, PPP, Mundell Fleming Intro**

Rodrik ch.5

### **Week 10- Mundell Fleming Cont.**

### **Week 11- Currency, Banking, and Debt Crises.**

Rodrik ch.6

Bhagwati ch.13, ch.14

### **Week 12- Asymmetric Debt Intolerance**

Rodrik ch.7, ch.8

Bhagwati ch.18

**Week 13- The Globalization Trilemma. Can International Institutions Prevent Entropy?  
The Clash Between Authoritarianism and Democracy. Case study: EU, GATT, WTO**

Rodrik ch.10, ch.11, ch.12,

Bhagwati ch.15

**Week 14- Final Exam**

**Some Important Dates:**

First day of class: 01/23

Spring break: 03/13-03/19

Last day of class: 05/03

Final exam date: TBA