

Econ 390 DL1 – International Economics (3 credits)

Spring 2023

Instructor: Mr. Sebastian Rodriguez

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Office hours: Thursdays 2:00 Pm – 3:00 PM by Zoom, please send an email to schedule.

1. Course Description

This course offers an in-depth understanding of key concepts and mechanisms that drive international economic relationships. We will cover topics as the Foreign Exchange Market, examining currency market dynamics, exchange rate determinations, and their impact on global trade. The course also delves into the Balance of Payments, offering insights into how countries track international economic transactions. An in-depth look at Foreign Trade Policies will cover various nations' strategies in governing international trade, including the impact of tariffs, quotas, and trade agreements. Any changes I make will be announced in class and an updated syllabus will be uploaded to Blackboard.

2. Course Outline

The course will be asynchronous. Each week on Tuesday a lecture will be posted on blackboard, and you will have until next Monday at midnight to complete a weekly assignment. The course will have two exams (one midterm and a final). If you are struggling, something doesn't make sense or you have any questions, please ask!

3. Required Textbooks

- Globalization by Donald Boudreaux. ISBN 978-0313342134. It is available in the bookstore or on Amazon.
- Reinert, Kenneth A. An Introduction to International Economics. ISBN 978-1-108-47005-6

Recommended but not required

You can check this book for a more technical introduction to the models we will be discussing. This book can be purchased by students looking for a more math-heavy introduction to what we are covering.

- International Economics: Theory and Policy (10th Edition) by Paul Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld, and Marc Melitz. ISBN 978-0133423648.

4. Office Hours

Hours will be held on Thursdays between 2:00 Pm – 3:00 PM by Zoom. I am also happy to meet by appointment (must be made at least 24 hours in advance, more notice preferred).

5. Grading

Your final grade will be the average of:

Weekly assignments	30%
Midterm 1	30%
Final Exam	40%

5.1 Grade Breakdown

I will use the following grading Scheme

A+	97 – 100
A	94 – 96
A-	90 – 93
B+	86 – 89
B	84 – 85
B-	80 – 83
C+	76 – 79
C	74 – 75
C-	70 – 73
D+	66 – 69
D	64 – 65
D-	60 – 63
F	0 – 59

5.2 Late Policy

My policy is to not accept late assignments without prior arrangements (only extreme circumstances, discussed in advanced); however, I will drop the lowest grade on the weekly assignments. Exams will be on blackboard on a specific time range, using lockdown browser. Assignments should be send trough blackboard as a pdf.

6. Important dates

01/23 Last day to add classes
01/30 Last day to drop classes without penalty
02/06 Last day to drop (50% tuition penalty)
02/20 Midterm
02/21-03/25 Selective withdrawal period
Final Exam TBA

7. Technology

To be successful in this course you will need regular access to a computer and a stable internet connection.

8. University Policies and Resources

- a. Academic Honesty: You are expected to be familiar with and abide by the University's Honor Code. The Code can be found [here](#). It is your responsibility to see me if you have questions about these policies. George Mason University has an honor code that states the following:
To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this:
- b. Students must follow the university policy for [Responsible Use of Computing](#)
- c. Student services: The University provides range of services to help you succeed academically and you should make use of these if you think they could benefit you. I also invite you to speak to me (the earlier the better).
- d. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

- e. [The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance. Counseling Center: Student Union I, Room 364, 703-993-2380.
- f. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the [George Mason University Office of Disability Services \(ODS\)](#) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Please note that accommodations MUST BE MADE BEFORE assignments or exams are due. I cannot adjust your grade after the fact.
- g. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- h. [The George Mason University Writing Center](#) staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. University Writing Center: Robinson Hall Room A114, 703-993-1200. The writing center includes assistance for students for whom English is a second language.
- i. [Diversity](#): George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.