

INTERNATIONAL TRADE
ECON 8850
CRN 21082
Spring 2018

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Office Hours: Contact by e-mail with the Course Coordinator

Class hours: No physical hours, the course is fully online
Classroom: No physical location, the course is fully online

Prerequisites

ECON 3910 (Microeconomics) or MBA 7030

Catalogue Description

This course develops an understanding of the economic basis for trade. It also examines trade policies nations adopt, common markets, international resources flows, and the multinational corporation. The theoretical principles, historical developments of International Trade, and new trade theories will be studied and examined through class lectures and discussions. The importance of David Ricardo's contributions will be studied as well as economic features of open and closed economies, benefits derived from trade and its impact on production, consumption and distribution of income.

Course Objective

The course aims to provide an overview of theoretical trade models with an emphasis on policy applications. There will be some focus on the application of economic concepts supplemented by empirical studies. The course aims to prepare students to critically analyze current issues of international trade policy.

Method of Instruction

This course will be taught fully online. Students will be provided with narrated slides as well as supplementary material to explain models and theoretical implications in greater depth. Further, there will be a weekly discussion in which students will participate by providing their critical assessment of particular topics related to the weekly lectures; this will supplant class participation and interaction. Grading will consist of two midterm exams, weekly forums, and a final paper.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course the student will be able to analyze basic international trade issues from an analytical and critical perspective. The student will be able to apply basic concepts and tools from economics to better understand international trade concepts and issues. Finally, the student will be able to think critically when confronted with policy issues related to international trade.

Required Material and Resources

- *International Trade* (2013), 1st edition, by John McLaren, publisher, Wiley. Available in hardcopy or eBook format.
- This course is entirely online, therefore, it is critical that students have access to a reliable internet connection throughout the semester. There are multiple computer labs on campus that students may use; see link below for more information about location and hours.
<http://technology.gsu.edu/technology-services/it-services/labs-and-classrooms/computer-labs/>
- Students are expected to cite at least one academic source in the weekly discussion posts. Academic sources are also expected to be referenced in the final paper. Make use of the library resources, specially the EconLit database which houses all economics papers published in peer-reviewed journals. See the link below.
<http://research.library.gsu.edu/az.php?a=e>

Suggested Material

- *International Trade* (2015), 3rd edition, by Robert Feenstra, publisher, Macmillan Learning.

Class Requirements and Policies for Missed Assignments

- **Weekly Discussion Post**

The class will cover one chapter each week (see class schedule at the end of the syllabus for more information), and students are required to participate in a weekly discussion about a topic pertaining to the topic corresponding to each week. The instructor has posted open ended questions relevant to current policy and students are expected to submit a *brief* answer (1-2 paragraphs) in which at least one academic source is cited as reference.

In addition, these discussions will be used to substitute for class participation and peer interaction. Therefore, you are expected to reply to at least 2 post made by other classmates. Read carefully what others have answered and say whether you agree (why) or disagree (why), was there anything that they missed in their argumentation? Any other fact you can add to support their view? These post responses will count toward the overall grade on your posts.

Altogether, the post and individual responses are worth 20% of the course grade. Own posts count for 15% and replies count for the remaining 5%.

The weekly discussion post will be due on Sundays at 10:00 pm, and will be submitted to a discussion board in iCollege. There is no hard deadline for replies, but replies made late (within 2 weeks of the original post) will not count toward your grade. Please see the tentative class schedule for specific deadlines and corresponding topics. There will be a discussion board for each chapter covered in class.

Since the weekly discussion post is due online, there is no opportunity to submit your post late. Consider that you may experience technical difficulties, so give yourself enough time to submit each discussion post. *Posts submitted past the deadline will be assigned a 0 and it will negatively affect the final grade. Technical difficulties are not a valid excuse to submit your post late. In order to account for unforeseen circumstances, you will not be penalized for at most one missed discussion post.*

A list of all questions by chapter can be found in each Chapter's folder under "Course Content" in iCollege.

- **Midterm Exams**

There will be two midterm exams. All exams will be administered online and they will involve a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Students will be assigned 2 hours and 30 minutes (max, likely less) to complete and submit each exam. Midterms will be made available online at least one week prior to the deadline. Please refer to the tentative class schedule for specific dates and corresponding chapters.

There will be no opportunity to make up a missed midterm exam under any circumstance. Please note that you are given one week to complete this assignment, therefore, plan accordingly in case you may have conflicting events or prior commitments.

- **Final Paper**

Each student will choose any topic relevant to international trade and will make a case to the Minister of International Trade of a national government of why a desired course of action is preferable to another. Note that you can choose a topic that affects any country or region in the world. Students may choose from the open-ended questions assigned in the weekly discussions. Also, the topics of the textbook can give you ideas on the type of issues/questions that are suitable for this task.

These are the main points upon which the instructor will base grading for this assignment:

- How relevant is the question?
- How good was the review of the literature?

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- How well did the student apply what he/she learned in the course and how was it applied in the paper (what evidence did the student provide?)
- Did the student present pros and cons in a balanced manner?
- What economic logic did the student use to decide on the “best course of action”?

The final paper is expected to be 10 pages long at most (1.5 spaced, Time New Roman 12 pt.). The page limit does not include figures, tables, graphs, or references. **This assignment is due on the last day of final exams for the semester (Tuesday May 1st) at no later than 11:59 pm EST. Please submit the paper via email at achong6@gsu.edu.** There are no exceptions to turning this paper late. Bear in mind that late submissions will NOT be accepted. If you miss the deadline and fail to submit this assignment, you will be assigned a grade of zero. There will be no exceptions.

Important Dates

- 01/08: First day of class
- 01/12: Last day to add/drop courses
- 02/23: Midterm I
- 02/27: Last day to withdraw (<http://registrar.gsu.edu/registration/withdrawals/>)
- 03/12 – 03/18: Spring Break
- 04/06: Midterm II
- 05/01: Final paper due via email at achong6@gsu.edu no later than 11:59 pm EST.

Grading Policy

See the table for details on how grades will be determined.

Component of Grade	Weight	Date
Weekly discussion posts	20%	Sundays at 10:00 pm in iCollege
Midterm 1	25%	Friday February 23 rd at 11:59 pm
Midterm 2	25%	Friday April 6 th at 11:59 pm
Final Paper	30%	Tuesday May 1 st at 11:59 EST
Total	100%	

Student grades will be assigned based on the following scale.

Letter grade	Numeric grade
A+	your grade \geq 97%
A	\geq 93%
A-	\geq 90%
B+	\geq 87%
B	\geq 83%
B-	\geq 80%

C+	≥ 77%
C	≥ 73%
C-	≥ 70%
D	≥ 60%
F	< 60%

Communication

This is an online course, access to GSU's learning management system, iCollege, is required. All class materials such as PowerPoint presentations, discussion boards, midterm exams, and grades will be available through iCollege. You are responsible for checking iCollege regularly as all class announcements will be posted there. However, **e-mails to the instructor should be sent to his GSU e-mail account (achong6@gsu.edu)**. This includes the final paper. Always use your student email address when you contact the instructor. Emails received from personal addresses will not be replied to. Do not use the iCollege communication system.

Students may set up notifications in iCollege so that they are automatically alerted to new iCollege emails and announcements. iCollege can send such notifications to an email account of their choice or via text messaging. Student help for iCollege can be found here:

<http://technology.gsu.edu/technology-services/it-services/training-and-learning-resources/desire2learn/taking-courses-in-desire2learn-for-students/>

Policy on Academic Honesty

All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to GSU's Policy on Academic Honesty as published in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook.

Website: <http://deanofstudents.gsu.edu/student-conductpolicy-on-academic-honesty/>

Academic honesty also involves properly citing work that is not your own. Since this is an online course this will be strictly enforced for any written assignments, particularly the final paper. No form of plagiarism will be tolerated. As noted in the University's Policy on Academic Honesty: "Plagiarism is presenting another person's work as one's own. Plagiarism includes any paraphrasing or summarizing of the works of another person without acknowledgment, including the submitting of another student's work as one's own. Plagiarism frequently involves a failure to acknowledge in the text, notes, or footnotes the quotation of the paragraphs, sentences, or even a few phrases written or spoken by someone else...The student is responsible for understanding the legitimate use of sources, the appropriate ways of acknowledging academic, scholarly or creative indebtedness, and the consequences of violating this responsibility."

For more, please refer to the Policy on Academic Honesty ([Section 409](#)).

Important Notes:

1. This syllabus is designed as a general guide to course content. Each instructor will provide a more detailed description of assignments, requirements, and evaluation methods
2. The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
3. All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to [GSU's Policy on Academic Honesty](#) as published in [Student Code of Conduct Handbook](#).
4. Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State, which is particularly true in this course as it is the first time that it is taught online. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.
5. Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the [Office of Disability Services](#). Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed [Accommodation Plan](#) and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which accommodations are sought.
6. Students who withdraw after the midpoint of each term will not be eligible for a "W" except in cases of [Emergency Withdrawal](#).
 - a. Withdrawal Policy: <http://advisement.gsu.edu/self-service/policies/withdrawal-policy/>
 - b. Repeat to Replace Policy: <http://advisement.gsu.edu/self-service/policies/repeat-to-replace-policy/>
 - c. Grade Appeal and Change (including Incomplete Grades) Policy: <http://registrar.gsu.edu/academic-records/grading/grade-appeals-and-changes/>
7. Important University dates can be found at <http://registrar.gsu.edu/registration/semester-calendars-exam-schedules/>
8. Georgia State University values diversity and is committed to fostering and maintaining an educational environment which appreciates individual differences in all areas of operation including classroom instruction, texts, and materials. To this end, any actions, practices, or processes by any faculty, staff person, or student that discriminates against or is prejudicial toward any person or group based on race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status will not be tolerated.
9. Students are expected to behave properly in the online forums and in their communication with teaching assistants, course coordinator, and instructor. Students not adhering to basic rules/guidelines may be asked to withdraw the online class or be penalized in their grading (depending on the severity of the infraction). See the [Student Code of Conduct Handbook](#) for more information on GSU's policy on disruptive student behavior in the classroom.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE*

Week 1 (January 8th)

Topic: Intro

No discussion post due

Week 2 (January 15th)

Topic: Chapter 1 “A Second Wave of Globalization”

Discussion post for Chapter 1 due on January 21st at 10:00 pm

Week 3 (January 22nd)

Topic: Chapter 2 “Should Nigeria Strive for Self-Sufficiency in Food?”

Discussion post for Chapter 2 due on January 28st at 10:00 pm

Week 4 (January 29th)

Topic: Chapter 3 “Why Do Americans Get their Impalas from Canada?”

Discussion post for Chapter 3 due on February 4th at 10:00 pm

Week 5 (February 5th)

Topic: Chapter 4 “Trade and Large Corporations: Kodak vs. Fuji”

Discussion post for Chapter 4 due on February 11th at 10:00 pm

Week 6 (February 12th)

Topic: Chapter 5 “Why did the North Want a Tariff, and Why Did the South Call It an Abomination?”

Discussion post for Chapter 5 due on February 18th at 10:00 pm

Week 7 (February 19th)

Midterm I (Chapters 1 – 5) due on Friday February 23rd at 11:59 pm EST

Week 8 (February 26th)

Topic: Chapter 6 “Is Free Trade a Rip-Off for American Workers?”

Discussion post for Chapter 6 due on March 4th at 10:00 pm

Week 8 (March 5th)

Topic: Chapter 7 “Why doesn’t our Government Want Us to Import Sugar?”

Discussion post for Chapter 7 due on March 11th at 10:00 pm

Week 9 (March 12th)

Spring Break

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Week 10 (March 19th)

Topic: Chapter 9 “Should Developing-Country Governments Use Tariffs to Jump-Start Growth?”

Discussion post for Chapter 9 due on March 25th at 10:00 pm

Week 11 (March 26th)

Topic: Chapter 10 “Was Ronald Reagan Punked by Japanese Automakers?”

Discussion post for Chapter 10 due on April 1st at 10:00 pm

Week 12 (April 2nd)

Midterm II (Chapters 6, 7, 9, and 10) due on Friday April 6th at 11:59 pm EST

Week 13 (April 9th)

Topic: Chapter 11 “Should the iPod be made in the United States?”

Discussion post for Chapter 11 due on April 15th at 10:00 pm

Week 13 (April 16th)

Topic: Chapter 12 “Should we Build a Border Fence?”

Discussion post for Chapter 12 due on April 22nd at 10:00 pm

Week 14 (April 23rd)

No topic discussed. No post is due. This time is recommended to use toward finishing the final paper.

Week 15 (April 30th)

Final paper is due on Tuesday May 1st at 11:59 pm EST

*The weekly schedule above provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. This outline is also posted on iCollege as “Class Schedule” in the “Syllabus and Information” folder.