

IR292
Fundamentals of International Economics
Spring 2015 T-R, 09:30-11:00
KCB 101

Professor

James Baldwin
Office: STO/CAS 457B
Office Hours : Wednesday 11:00- 13:00 Thursday 12:30-13:30
Email: jbaldwin@bu.edu

Required Text

James Gerber, International Economics 6th edition
Also Required : The Economist (info will be given on discounted student rate during first lecture)

Prerequisites

EC101 and EC102

General Course Description

The objective of this course is to provide students in international relations with a basic economic understanding of globalization and the functioning of the global economy. The course covers the economic theory, tools and institutions that underpin international trade, finance and international relations. Students will obtain a working knowledge of the basic principals and tools of economics that are used to understand and analyse questions and trends in the global economy. A fundamental literacy in economics is of critical importance to students of international relations where an in-depth knowledge of world events and the forces that precipitate them is a vital tool of the trade.

Grading:

20% Discussion (10% discussion assignments, 10% discussion participation), 20% 1st Exam
20% 2nd Exam, 25% Exam 3, 10% Homework, 5% Participation

Exams

Three exams will be given covering lecture material. Any make up exams will be administered orally and only under exceptionally circumstances (severe illness, hospitalization, etc) will this be allowed.

Homework

Weekly homework assignments are to be turned in during discussion sections for grading. Late homework or assignments of any kind will not be accepted.

Discussion Section

Discussion attendance is mandatory. Due to the large class size it is vital that you attend the section for which you are enrolled. You will not receive credit for attending a section in which you are not an enrolled student. In discussions students will review weekly homework assignments and complete in class assignments related to the Economist readings and assignments given by your TF. Failure to attend a discussion section will result in forfeiture of that week's discussion and homework credit.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance in lecture's is vital for success in any college class. Irregular attendance (more than 3 absences, habitual tardiness, etc) will result in a semester grade deduction. The University attendance policy mandates no more than 5 absences to receive course credit and is accessible via the CAS website. Lectures are highly interactive and students are expected to be prepared to respond when called upon.

Computing Policy

Due to the high probability of distracting other students, students observed using computers or tablets for uses other than note-taking will have deductions taken from their grade. Use of cellphones, tablets, laptops etc in discussion is not permitted unless specifically stated by your TF.

Academic Honesty

Any and all violations of the academic conduct code are taken very seriously by myself, the TFs and the university. I maintain a zero tolerance policy with respect to cheating of any kind. Any misrepresentation in an effort to enhance one's grade or achievements is cheating. Note: *This includes signing another student's name on an attendance sheet.* You should read the University Academic Conduct Code for further information about specific definitions, procedures, sanctions, etc. at the following website; <http://www.bu.edu/academics/>

I am required to, and will, refer ALL cases of suspected academic misconduct to the CAS Dean's Office.

Course Outline

		Day	Topic	Reading/HW
Jan	20	t	Intro to the Course and Micro Econ Review	
	22	r	Introduction to the U.S. and the Global Economy. NO DISCUSSION THIS WEEK	Ch 1
	27	t	International Economic Institutions Since World War II : IMF and the World Bank	Ch 2
	29	r	International Economic Institutions Since World War II : IMF and the World Bank	Ch 2
	30	f	Discussion Homework: Chapter 1, Study Questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 ; Chapter 2, Study questions 3, 4, 5, 6, 8;	
Feb	3	t	The Economics of International Trade: Comparative Advantage and the Gains from Trade	Ch 3
	5	r	The Economics of International Trade: Comparative Advantage and the Gains from Trade	Ch 3

	6	f	Discussion Homework: Chapter 3 Study questions 1 (a-e), 3	
	10	t	The Economics of International Trade: The Neo-Classical Approach	Ch 4
	12	r	The Economics of International Trade: The Neo-Classical Approach	Ch 4
	13	f	Discussion Homework: Chapter 4, Study Questions 1,2,4,8 ; Chapter 6 Study Questions 1-3	
	17	t	MONDAY SCHEDULE-NO CLASS	
	19	r	The Economics of International Trade: Tariffs and Quotas	Ch 6
	20	f	Discussion Homework: Chapter 6 Study Questions ???	
	24	t	The Economics of International Trade: Commercial Policy	Ch 7
	26	r	The Economics of International Trade: Commercial Policy	Ch 7
	27	f	Discussion Homework: Chapter 7 Study Questions 4 and 5	
Mar	3	t	The Economics of International Trade: Beyond Comparative Advantage	Ch 5
	5	r	Exam 1	All Readings to date
	6	f	NO DISCUSSION	
	10	t	SPRING BREAK	
	12	r	SPRING BREAK	
	17	t	The Economics of International Trade: International Trade and Labor and Environmental Standards	Ch 8
	19	r	The Economics of International Finance: Trade and the Balance of Payments	Ch 9
	20	f	Discussion Homework: Discussion Homework:Ch 8 Questions 2, 5, 6, 9 Chapter 9, Vocab (write definitions) and Study Questions 2 and 3;	
	24	t	The Economics of International Finance: The Economics of International Finance: Exchange Rates and Currency Markets	Ch 10
	26	r	The Economics of International Finance: Open Economy	Ch 11

			Economics	
	27	f	Discussion Homework: Chapter 10 Vocab and Study Questions 1 and 3	
	31	t	International Financial Crises	Ch 12
Apr	2	r	International Financial Crises	Ch 12
	3	f	Discussion Homework: Chapter 11 Study Questions 2, 3, 6 and 7 ; Chapter 12 Study questions 1, 2, 7, 9	
	7	t	Exam 2	Ch 8 through 12
	9	r	The U.S. Mexico and Latin America	Ch 13 and 15
	10	f	No Discussion this week	
	14	t	The U.S. Mexico and Latin America	Ch 13 and 15
	16	r	The EU East Asian Growth	Ch 14 and 16
	17	f	Discussion Homework: Chapter 14 Study Questions 5,6,7 Chapter 16 Questions 1, 2, 3	
	21	t	East Asian Growth -possible guest lecture	Ch 16
	23	r	TBA-possible review session with TFS	
	24	f	Discussion: Review Last Day to submit "Insurance Paper"	
	28	t	The BRICs	Ch 17
	30	r	Exam 3	All readings and lectures

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus over the course of the semester. Please view the course website for the most current version