

# INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS AND POLICY: ECON 3403-001

Fall 2021

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Vincent Mastantuno	<b>Time:</b>	TTH 3:55-5:10PM
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Vincent.Mastantuno@colorado.edu">Vincent.Mastantuno@colorado.edu</a>	<b>Place:</b>	HLMS 199
<b>Office:</b>	Zoom	<b>OHs:</b>	TTH 9-10AM, & by appt

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**Course Page:** <https://canvas.colorado.edu/>

**Textbooks (NOT Required):** *International Economics* (9th edition) by Steven Husted and Michael Melvin.

**Course Description and Objectives:** This course covers economic concepts relating to the international economy and important developments in the global economy. The economic theory emphasized in the class will give the student a better understanding of the foundations for international trade. Understanding this material will allow students to relate the importance of trade to political and cultural relations. In this course we undertake an in-depth study of the theories, policies, and institutions of international trade and finance. We have three basic objectives.

- The first is to build an analytical framework within which we can develop a logical approach to investigating international economics. The idea is for us to “think like economists,” an approach that gives students both a sound basis for understanding the complexities of international commerce and the objectivity needed for assessing various policy proposals. An emphasis will be made on the assumptions underlying common trade models, and you will be expected to think critically about these assumptions and the models over all.
- The second goal is to gain a fuller appreciation of the complicated economic interrelationships that link nations and peoples. For example, why might the economies of the European Union and Japan continue to stagnate? These are complex issues without easy answers, but the goal is to establish a coherent, consistent, and realistic framework for thinking about them.
- The final objective is to apply the economics of trade to the world surrounding us. For example, it is not enough just to know how trade barriers work. We should investigate also why such policies exist and how costly or beneficial they are.

## COURSE POLICIES:

### General:

- Class periods will be devoted to lecture, practice, and the occasional (time permitting) in class activity. Participation is important and will be a decent part of your grade. Participation will be based %50 attendance and %50 on in class participation- i.e. answering questions, contributing to practice, participating in activities, ect.
  - **Four** absences will be dropped at the end of the semester. This is meant to cover **excused** absences. If you have more than four excused absences, please bring me the documentation for *each* of the absences you would like excused at the end of the semester. For example, if you have five excused absences and would like *all* five dropped, you must bring me documentation that covers all five.
  - If you do not feel comfortable participating in class these points can be made up by attending office hours, **attendance cannot** be made up in this manner.

- If you use a computer for notes, sit in the back row to avoid distracting your classmates. No mobile devices are allowed during class periods.
- Please allow 24 hours for me to respond to your emails or 48 hours if it is on the weekend. **Grades will not be discussed over email.**

**Grades:**

- Distribution:

Grade Item	Percentage
Participation	10
Problem Sets	20
Midterm 1	20
Midterm 2	20
Final	30

- Reporting: Grades will be uploaded into Canvas as assignments are graded.
- Curving: Midterms may be curved individually, and a curve may be applied to the overall course grade to conform to departmental standards.
- Letter Grade Cutoffs: Let your grade be “x”.

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	$93 \leq x$	C	$73 \leq x < 77$
A-	$90 \leq x < 93$	C-	$70 \leq x < 73$
B+	$87 \leq x < 90$	D+	$67 \leq x < 70$
B	$83 \leq x < 87$	D	$63 \leq x < 67$
B-	$80 \leq x < 83$	D-	$60 \leq x < 63$
C+	$77 \leq x < 80$	F	$x < 60$

- Adjustment: You will be responsible for monitoring your own grades. If you are worried about your grade, come to me early to make a plan for your success. I will automatically increase final course grades that are 0.5% below any grade cutoff after any final grading curve has been applied. After these steps are taken, no further increases to grades will occur. Individual requests for bumps or extra credit assignments will be denied.

**Problem Sets:**

- There will be a problem set due every two or three weeks. Due dates are listed in the tentative schedule below. I will drop the lowest score of these assignments. The problems will mirror the types of questions that will be on the exams. No late assignments will be accepted.
- Problem sets can be completed in groups of **up to 4**, but larger groups may be graded more harshly. Groups should only turn in one copy.

### Exams:

- Midterms: Two midterms will be given during lecture time on the dates in the schedule given in this syllabus. For students with documented accommodations for exams, please notify me with your documentation at least one week before the first exam.
  - Note: Makeup exams are not given. If the student misses a midterm due to emergency, the weight of the midterm will be placed on the final exam (meaning the final exam will be worth 50% of their grade).
- Final Exam: The final exam is cumulative. The exam will be held at the university assigned place and time. This date is non-negotiable. The only exception to this standard is if you have 3 final exams scheduled on the same day; in this circumstance, you must notify me before the 11th week of the semester.

**Cheating:** If you are caught cheating in any fashion (on exams or homework) you will be given an F for the semester and your case will be reported to the Honor Code Council for review.

### UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

**Students with Disabilities** If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu). If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries guidelines under the Quick Links at the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with your professor.

**Religious Observance Policy** Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, if you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the term so that we can make proper arrangements. See full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html).

**Classroom Behavior Policy** Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code). Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities.

**Discrimination and Harassment Policy** The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, and the University of Colorado Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships Policy apply to

all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127, or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

**Honor Code** All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of the institution. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at [honorcode.colorado.edu](http://honorcode.colorado.edu).

### **TENTATIVE\* SCHEDULE:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Lecture</b>
Aug 24 - Aug 26	Topics: Introduction & Basic Trade Model Textbook: Chapter 1, & 2
Aug 30 - Sept 2 <b>HW1 due Sept 2</b>	Topics: Ricardian (Classical) Trade Model Textbook: Chapter 3
Sept 7 - Sept 9	Topics: Heckscher-Ohlin Trade Model Textbook: Chapter 4
Sept 14 - Sept 16 <b>HW2 due Sept 16</b>	Topics: Other Trade Models Textbook: Chapter 5
Sept 21 - Sept 23 <b>MT1 on Sept 23</b>	Topics: Review & Midterm 1 Textbook: Chapters 1-5
Sept 28 - Sept 30	Topics: Tariffs & Nontariff Barriers Textbook: Chapter 6 & 7
Oct 5 - Oct 7 <b>HW3 due Oct 7</b>	Topics: Arguments for Protection, US Commercial Policy, & the WTO Textbook: Chapter 7 & 8
Oct 12 - Oct 14	Topics: FTAs & Economic Development Textbook: Chapters 9 & 10
Oct 19 - Oct 21 <b>HW4 due Oct 21</b>	Topics: Economic Effects of Immigration Textbook: Chapters 10
Oct 26 - Oct 28 <b>MT2 on Oct 28</b>	Topics: Review & Midterm 2 Textbook: Chapter 6-10

Nov 2 - Nov 4	Topics: The Balance of Payments Textbook: Chapter 11
Nov 9 - Nov 11	Topics: The Foreign-Exchange Market Textbook: Chapter 12
Nov 16 - Nov 18	Fall Break/Thanksgiving
Nov 23 - Nov 25 <b>HW5 due Nov 25</b>	Topics: International Monetary Systems Textbook: Chapter 13
Nov 30 - Dec 2	Topics: Exchange Rates in the Long-Run Textbook: Chapter 15
Dec 7 - Dec 9 <b>HW6 due Dec 9</b>	Topics: Review

\*This schedule is optimistic, it's unlikely that all textbook chapters will be covered.