Fall 2017 – ECONOMICS 317 INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
Instructor: Guido Giuntini
Email: guidogiuntini@boisestate.edu

We-Fri 10:30-11:45 Room Location – MBEB 1210

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:45 – 12:45, or by appointment
Location: MBEB 3212

Prerequisites: EC201 and EC202.


Other readings distributed by the instructor

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: ECON 317 INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS (3-0-3)(F,S). The benefits and pattern of world trade and investment. Tariffs, quotas, and the commercial policies of nations. The foreign exchange market and the balance of payments. Consequences of balance-of-payments disequilibrium for national policy. The analysis of international payments adjustment and the nature and institutions of international monetary systems. PREREQ: Admission to COBE or Global Studies major or Economics BA major or Economics minor, ECON 201 and ECON 202.

Course Description: This course explores the micro and macroeconomic aspects of international trade, institutions, and monetary relationships. While analyzing trade relations, this course will look at the theoretical framework of comparative advantage and gains from trade, tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, international labor and environmental standards, balance of payments, and exchange rates. In the last part of the course we will look at regional issues in the global economy. By the end of this course, each student should have a solid economic basis for understanding and evaluating international economic policy issues discussed in publications such as The Economist and the Wall Street Journal.

University Required Syllabus Statement:
Disability Accommodation
Students with disabilities needing accommodations to fully participate in this class should contact the Educational Access Center (EAC). All accommodations MUST be approved through the EAC. Please stop by Administration 114 or call 208-426-1583 to make an appointment with a disability specialist. To learn more about the accommodation process, visit our website at http://eac.boisestate.edu

COBE Required Syllabus Statements:
Statement of Shared Values
Boise State University upholds the following values as the foundation for a civil and nurturing environment. Campus community members and all who are part of COBE are expected to adhere to the following values:

Academic Excellence – engage in our own learning and participate fully in the academic community’s pursuit of knowledge.
Caring – show concern for the welfare of others.
Citizenship – uphold civic virtues and duties that prescribe how we ought to behave in a self-governing community by obeying laws and policies, volunteering in the community, and staying informed on issues.
Fairness – expect equality, impartiality, openness and due process by demonstrating a balanced standard of justice without reference to individual bias.
Respect – treat people with dignity regardless of who they are and what they believe. A respectful person is attentive, listens well, treats others with consideration and doesn’t resort to intimidation, coercion or violence to persuade.
Responsibility – take charge of our choices and actions by showing accountability and not shifting blame or taking improper credit. We will pursue excellence with diligence, perseverance, and continued improvement.
Trustworthiness – demonstrate honesty in our communication and conduct while managing ourselves with integrity and reliability.

Students in this class will learn or practice the following COBE Core Curriculum concepts, methods, and skills:
1. Understand and apply analytical and disciplinary concepts and methods related to business and economics:
   1.3. Economics
   1.4. Finance
   1.6. International environment of business
2. Communicate effectively: Write messages and documents that are clear, concise, and compelling
2.2. Communicate effectively: Give oral presentations that use effective content, organization, and delivery
3. Solve problems, including unstructured problems, related to business and economics
4. Use effective teamwork and collaboration skills
5. Demonstrate appropriate principles of responsible business practices

Grading: Your course grade will be based on class participation, three in-class exams, three short group projects with a presentation, and a final paper (all described below).

Class participation is 15%
Group projects and presentation 15%
Exam 1 and Exam 2 20% (lowest grade of two exams can be dropped)
Exam 3 (final exam, cumulative) 25%
Final paper 25%
Grading

Class participation
The class set up requires students to read the assigned material ahead of time. Class time will be devoted to answering the study questions at the end of each chapter and expand on them as needed. You will be asked to answer questions and work out problems.

Exams:
1. There will be three exams: two (noncumulative) midterm exams and a third (cumulative) examination that will cover all of the material in the course. Exams will be in short answers/essay format. For the grade, only the best grade of the two midterm exams will be counted.
2. You must take each of the first three exams unless an illness or emergency, of which you notify me in writing before the exam, prevents you from doing so, in which case you will have to make up the exam as soon as possible.
3. The final exam is cumulative.
4. The dates for the exams are shown on the course schedule.

Group Projects:
1. During the first week of class, you will form 2-4 person study teams that will be responsible for submitting two short research projects and present one of them to the rest of the class. Each project is worth 5% and the presentation is worth 5%, (total 15% of your grade). Please note that it will be impossible for me to give individual grades for group projects. The grade will be assigned equally to all members of the group.
2. Each group will select the topics for the projects and are subject to the instructor’s approval. Each group will submit a short paper (no longer than three pages, excluding references and graphs) that will discuss your group’s thoughtful analysis of each of the topics. Your goal is to evaluate and analyze the main idea(s) of the topic, not simply summarize the text of articles and papers. Use at least 3-4 references, (acceptable sources are academic papers, newspaper articles from leading publications – The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Economist) plus data analysis to support the idea. For example, if you are discussing how countries benefit from trade, you might want to sample some countries and correlate the per-capita GDP to their trade-to-GDP ratio. The best papers will show that your group engaged with the ideas and seriously considered their validity. The essays are required to be typewritten, (12-point font) and double-spaced. Please list the members of your team at the top of each paper.

Presentations:
1. Each group will present one of the projects of their choice. Each presentation should be about 10 minutes long, and cover the aspects of the research with appropriate visual aids. The presentation should be equally divided among group members. There will be a 5 - 10 minute Q&A time at the end. Please refer to the class schedule for presentation times.
2. Each group should sign up for a presentation slot as soon as possible.
Research Paper:
The requirements for the research paper are as follows:
1. Your paper will be a research project on a topic chosen by you, with my approval. It may deal with any aspect of international economics that interests you. Because of the length limit described below, the topic chosen should be neither too narrow nor too broad.
2. Each paper is to be eight to ten double-spaced pages, excluding the title page, endnote page(s), bibliography, and exhibits, graphs, or charts. It must be typewritten. Please use one inch margins and number your pages. Use a standard 12-point font, and make sure the print is dark enough to be read easily.
3. In preparing these papers, students are expected to supplement the assigned readings with outside research involving relevant academic literature. In addition to any other sources you use, you are required to use as references at least four to six academic (economic) journal articles that you find by using the Journal of Economic Literature (ECONLIT) database, a searchable database accessible on the BSU library website. We will discuss in class the nature of academic journal articles and how they differ from other types of publications.
4. In the text of your paper, you must cite and discuss each academic journal article included in your list of references. When citing an article or book within the body of your paper, you must include the date of the publication and the specific page number from which the material cited in your paper is taken (e.g., Jones 2010, p. 355).
5. Accurate documentation of your sources is required. If you obtain materials from the Internet, include full identification of the website and the source and title of the material you obtain there. Always make sure that any Internet source you are citing is credible (for example, citing sources such as Wikipedia undermine your credibility).
6. Papers will be graded on form as well as substance. Organization, spelling, punctuation, grammar, and word usage are important aspects of your written presentation that will be evaluated. Please use the COBE Writing Style Guide as your style guide in writing your research paper, and ask me if you have questions about the Guide or the issues it covers. The COBE Writing Style Guide is available at: http://cobe.boisestate.edu/COBEwritingGuide/.
7. Plagiarism is unacceptable under any circumstances and will result in a failing grade on your paper. Always use quotation marks and cite your source (including the page number) if you want to use another author's words, even if it is only a short phrase that you are using. If you have any questions about plagiarism or about correct citation methods, please come and talk with me. Note: It is not acceptable just to cite the source, without using quotation marks, if you are using another author's exact words. Quotation marks must be used to show that those exact words came from the article or book that you are citing.
8. See class schedule for due dates.
9. Late papers will be penalized at least one full grade, except in circumstances that would qualify a student to receive an "incomplete" grade in the course.
10. You must hand in a copy of each of your reference articles (each one stapled) when you submit your paper. Please put the articles in alphabetical order by author’s last name, and label them prominently by author’s last name on the first page of each article. Also, please include a copy of your original paper proposal with my comments on it.
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS (COBE) WRITING STYLES GUIDE: Available at http://cobe.boisestate.edu/COBEwritingGuide/. Please use this document as your style guide if you are writing a research paper. READING ASSIGNMENTS: The reading assignments in Carbaugh's International Economics and in The Morality of Capitalism are shown on the following course schedule. In addition, you are encouraged to read the Wall Street Journal, which routinely covers developments in international trade and finance. Sign-up sheets for the Wall Street Journal are available, and subscription to the Journal is not a requirement.

Students requesting a grade of "incomplete" must have been passing the course up to the last three weeks of the semester and, due to documentable illness or emergency, be unable to complete the course.

Tips for a successful course:
- Study hard from the beginning and do not postpone reading the assigned material. Class participation is simple as long as you know what you are talking about. Make sure to study and be prepared for the first exam. It is the easiest.
- Read the assigned chapters before our class discussion of that material. Each week we will cover 1-2 chapters of the Gerber text plus selected readings as assigned by the instructor, so it is essential that you keep up with the reading. Make sure to take notes on important points as you read the text.
- Participate actively in class: ask questions; give examples from your own experience; tell me when to slow down or speed up.
- The format of the class is NOT lecture-based. It requires the students to read the material ahead of class. We will use class time to answer some of the study questions at the end of each chapter both in small group settings and as a full-class.
- Make sure your statements are supported by evidence and that the evidence is sound and properly sourced.
- The exams will address the same issues we will be discussing in class, so active participation will improve your chances to get a good grade and, most importantly, to understand the material.
- Write out detailed answers to all of the study questions discussed in class. As mentioned above, the exams will be based on these study questions. Start thinking about a subject for your paper from the beginning.
- Contact me right away if you are having trouble with any of the material.

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is expected and required in this course, as it is throughout Boise State University. Please review BSU's policy governing academic honesty, described in the BSU Undergraduate Catalog.

Attendance: Attendance is required, advised, and very helpful. Please notify me in advance if you know that you will have to be absent.

Class Etiquette:
- Be respectful! Do not interrupt or make rude comments.
- Minimize as much as possible leaving and returning to the classroom.
- The use of laptops, iPads, etc. is allowed for note-taking and research purposes. You might, during class, be asked to look up information and data. Do not abuse this privilege.

Course Schedule / Required Readings


Week 3 (9/4-8): Gerber, Chap. 5 (Beyond Comparative Advantage).

Week 4 (9/11-15): Gerber, Chap. 6 (The Theory of Tariffs and Quotas). Review. EXAM 1


Week 6 (9/25-29): Gerber, Chap. 9 (Trade and the Balance of Payment). First group project due (9/29 at the end of class). Last day to drop classes (Friday, February 20).


Week 11 (10/30-11/3): Gerber, Chap. 16 (Export Oriented Growth in East Asia). Gerber, Chap. 17 (China and India in the World Economy).

Week 12 (11/6-10): Second group project due (11/6 at the end of class). Review/Presentations/Papers

Week 13 (11/13-17): Review/Presentations/Papers

Week 14: Thanksgiving Holiday! No classes, November 20 – 24.

Week 15 (11/27-12/1): PAPERS DUE 12/1 at the end of class.
Week 16 (12/4-8): Review/Presentations

Week 17: EXAM 3 (final exam, cumulative). Week of 12/11-15 (see schedule)