Economics 360: International Economic Problems

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Course Description:
The aim of this course is to construct an analytical framework for exploring international economic problems, to gain a strong appreciation of the economic interrelationships that link nations and people, and to use this opportunity to become better informed about the world surrounding us. The general strategy is to provide an exposition of international trade that is serious in its theoretical underpinnings and yet relevant in its connection to current economic events and policy issues. Topics to be covered include causes and consequences of trade, effects of tariffs and quotas, the impact of trade on economic growth, international agreements on regional trade liberalization, and aspects of foreign investment, among other things.

Required Textbook:

Web Resources:
The class website will be available on Blackboard at https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/. When you enroll in this class you are automatically enrolled in the class website. Announcements, course materials, and grades will be posted on this site. Be sure to check for updates regularly.

Student Expectations:
You should be prepared to devote at least 2-3 hours of your time per lecture hour to studying, practicing techniques, and solving problems. This class is cumulative so it is essential that you not fall behind. I strongly encourage you to see me or the graduate assistant whenever you have difficulty understanding the material. You are encouraged to form a study group. Explaining the material to your peers is a great way to make sure you understand the material and helps identify your weaknesses.

Course Requirements, Due Dates, and Grading:
Course grades are a weighted average based on homework assignments, three midterm exams, and a potentially optional cumulative final. Students are expected to take each exam when scheduled and turn in all assignments on time. Failure to do so will affect your course grade. No extra credit assignments will be given.
What | When | % of Grade
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Homework | Throughout semester | 25%
Midterm 1 | October 2\textsuperscript{nd} | 25%
Midterm 2 | November 6\textsuperscript{th} | 25%
Midterm 3 | December 11\textsuperscript{th} | 25%
Final Exam | December 16\textsuperscript{th} 1:00-3:00pm | optional* 

*See below

Exams:
Each midterm exam is individually worth 25% of your course grade – making exams worth a total of 75% of your course grade. Midterm exams cover specific material from the course schedule: the second midterm only tests material covered after the first midterm, the third only material covered after the second. The final exam is similar in style and content to the midterm exams, but the final exam is cumulative (covers all of the material from the semester). The final is potentially optional, see next page for more details.

No form of electronic devices (except basic calculators) will be permitted during an exam. This includes electronic translators. A traditional paper-based translator is permitted.

Note the final exam date – **Tuesday, December 16\textsuperscript{th} (1:00 - 3:00pm)** – and make any end-of-semester travel plans accordingly.

Homework:
Homework will be assigned throughout the semester. It will account for a total of 25% of your grade. The lowest homework score will be dropped–consider it a free pass, use it wisely. You must **SHOW YOUR WORK** in order to receive credit. Homework will be collected at the beginning of class on the due date posted for each assignment. **Late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstance–no exceptions.** Submit the completed assignment early when you know you will not be able to turn it in on time. You are encouraged to work together but your answers must be written by you to be sure you understand the material. Solutions will not be posted but can be reviewed before/after class and during office hours. Homework assignments are useful study guides for exams and an opportunity to demonstrate your command of the material.

Make-ups and Regrading:
No early or make-up exams will be given. If a midterm exam is missed for any reason, the cumulative final exam is no longer optional and is, therefore, worth 25% of the course grade. Since this applies no matter what the reason, there is no need to inform me that you will miss a midterm exam. A second missed exam is scored as a zero. The cumulative final is optional for students who have taken all three midterm exams and can be taken to drop the lowest midterm exam grade if it improves on it.

Requests for reconsideration of assigned scores should be submitted in writing by the class period after receiving the grade–no “oral arguments” will be considered. Attach the original graded exam to a typed letter explaining why you think the assigned score is incorrect (e.g., points were added incorrectly). Note, copies of a random subset of each set of assignments and exams will be made in order to minimize the perverse incentives induced by this policy.

Attendance and Classroom Behavior:
Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time and stay throughout the class period in order to get a good grasp of the material. Attendance will not be monitored, though a student’s grade will be affected by missing lecture. You are responsible for all information presented during class and I strongly encourage your attendance. Students who do well in this course tend to attend class consistently. It is your responsibility to contact a classmate to get his/her lecture notes should you miss a class. Arriving late, leaving early, and talking during class can be disruptive to the instructor and to other students and should be minimized. Please turn off your cell phone before class begins. Students who are involved in classroom disruptions will be asked to leave the class and will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
Students with Disabilities:
If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Academic Dishonesty:
"Institutions of higher education are founded to impart knowledge, seek truth, and encourage one’s development for the good of society. University students shall thus be intellectually and morally obliged to pursue their course of studies with honesty and integrity. Therefore, in preparing and submitting materials for academic courses and in taking examinations, a student shall not yield to cheating or plagiarism, which not only violate academic standards but also make the offender liable to penalties explicit in Section 41301 of Title 5, California Code of Regulations (SDSU 2014-15 General Catalog)."

Your work must be your own. During an exam, looking at someone else’s paper, talking with a peer, or referencing inappropriate material are considered cheating. Academic dishonesty of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor and/or university. Any incidence of cheating or plagiarism will be reported. Should you violate the code of academic integrity, you will receive an F for the course and will be reported to the Division of Academic Affairs. Penalties can be severe.

How to do well in this course:
Most students find this course to be quite challenging. I encourage you to participate and ask questions often. All questions are welcome. From time to time, I will ask you questions to assess comprehension and/or re-enforce your understanding. I highly recommend the following tips to ensure success in this class.

1. Attend class regularly.
2. Take the problem sets seriously and use them to identify weaknesses in your understanding. Work on problem sets well before they are due.
3. Participate in class activities and discussion – this includes asking questions during lecture.
4. Prepare for class by completing assigned readings beforehand.
5. Get help when you don’t understand something: during office hours (or by appt), the text’s free online help, by email, ask questions in class, and/or find classmates to study with.
6. Don’t wait until the night before an exam to start studying. Mastery of the material will require dedication to studying each chapter as the semester progresses.