

ECON560.001.FA16: Topics in International Economics

This course builds upon the knowledge of international economics you accumulated in previous semesters and applies it to a series of specific issues and articles on international trade and international finance. The topics covered include: 1) globalization and income inequality; 2) regional free trade agreements; 3) the European crisis. The course organization is a non-standard one, and relies heavily upon student participation.

Section 1:

Time: 2-3:15 pm

Days: TTh

Office Hours:

Professor Black:

Tue 3:30-5pm

Office: Gardner 101A

Prerequisite:

Economics 460

Syllabus

Required Materials: There is no required text for this course; however, each student is expected to have an international economics text for reference. All other readings will be posted on the course website and/or put on reserve in the Undergraduate Library. It is important that you do the readings before they are presented. If you do not plan to do so, please drop the course. Each day's readings will be posted to the Calendar and notified to the class.

Personal

You are not permitted to use a laptop computer, tablet computer, smart phone, or cell phone during

Electronic

class. Watching movies and videos, playing games, checking the scores on espn.com, and chatting with your friends

Devices

are disruptive behavior that will not be tolerated.

Course Requirements: Evaluation for this course will be based upon two exams (50%), a term paper (30%), "other graded activities" (15%), and an end-of-the-semester group presentation (5%).

The term paper will be due at 2 pm on Thursday, October 27th. Although there is no length requirement, it is expected that the paper will be 10-15 pages in length. Late submissions will be penalized. Term paper details and expectations will be provided to you in late-August. See Term Paper Resources in Resources.

"*Other graded activities*" include your participation in activities conducted during and outside of class time. These activities include discussion of assigned articles and scheduled individual presentations. **Course Requirements:** Evaluation for this course will be based upon two exams (50%), a term paper (30%), "other graded activities" (15%), and an end-of-the-semester group presentation (5%).

Grading Scale (as a percentage of total points)

A = 93-100 A- = 90-92 B+ = 87-89 B = 83-86 B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79 C = 70-76 D = 60-69 F <60

I do not distribute any grades via email or over the telephone. If you are not in class when an assignment is returned, then you will have to stop by during office hours in order to get your grade. As a rule, I do not curve final grades.

Exam Format: There will be one mid-term exam given during the semester **October 18th**. A second exam will be held during our scheduled final exam slot (**December 10th @ 12 noon**). Each exam will cover material presented in class, as well as readings and assignments scheduled outside of class. The exam format will be provided in the class prior to a given exam.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code (<http://instrument.unc.edu>). Any violation will result in an **F** for the course, and other sanctions may apply.

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is strongly recommended. You are responsible for any announcements that you may have missed if you choose not to attend class and you should get the missed notes/announcements from one of your peers. You are allowed five absences – no questions asked. You are, however, still accountable for any homework assigned during the missed class and you cannot make up an in-class graded activity. Furthermore, your final grade will be lowered by 2 percentage points for each absence over the allowable five. In the case of extreme illness or family emergency please notify me as soon as possible. **Students who are not willing to attend regularly should drop the course.** Note: If you are late for class, then this will count as ½ of an absence.

It is expected that you will respect your peers and the instructor with appropriate behavior while in class and that you will arrive to class on time with your cell phones turned to the off position. This means that you should refrain from reading the paper, browsing the web, instant messaging, playing games, etc. during class time.

Please If you find that you are having particular difficulty with any of the material in this course, then get help immediately. *Do not let it build up.* It is expected that you will have completed the readings and reviewed your notes **BEFORE** a scheduled class meeting. Many students will wait until the last minute to get help and put extraordinary demands on their professor's time. I have office hours so please take advantage of them.

Guidelines for Class Discussions (courtesy of Professor Michael K. Salemi)

You will be assigned readings that will help to promote your learning and understanding of the various course topics. Generally, you will be given a set of discussion questions to prepare as you work through the readings. These questions will serve as our outline during the class discussions.

To make our class discussion as valuable as possible, I expect all to abide by the following contract.

As instructor, I agree to:

1. Read the material carefully.
2. Pose questions carefully during class.
3. Strive for answers.
4. Listen intently.
5. Involve each student.
6. Confine myself to asking questions so that the discussion does not turn into a lecture.

As students, you agree to:

1. Read the material carefully.
2. Offer evidence from the article and the class materials to support your answers.
3. Not refer to “outside” sources of information unless everyone has access to them.
4. Listen carefully to each other and to the questions being asked.
5. Ask for clarification of any point that you do not understand.
6. Respectfully challenge answers that you do not agree with.
7. Be willing to change your mind.
8. Answer the questions posed by the leader before making other points.
9. Don’t repeat a point that someone else has already made.
10. Be as brief as possible. Have a point, make it, and then stop talking.

Calendar:

Periodicals: [The Economist](#), [Financial Times](#), [Economic Policy](#), [Der Spiegel](#)
[VoxEU](#) [Economonitor](#)

A detailed outline with required readings can be found below. Specific assignments will be made weekly. You are expected to have all assigned readings completed before the material is discussed.

Part I: August 23 – September 15: Globalization and Income Inequality

- [Van Reenen, "Wage inequality, technology and trade: 21st century evidence" *Labour Economics* \(2011\)](#)
- [Haskel, et. al. "Globalization and US Wages" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* \(2012\)](#)
- [Alvaredo, Atkinson, Piketty, & Saez "The Top 1 Percent in International and Historical Perspective"](#)
- [Kaplan & Rauh, "It's the Market: The Broad-Based Rise in the Return to Top Talent"](#)

Part II: September 20 – October 13: Regional Free Trade Agreements vs. Doha Round

- Baldwin & Wyplosz, *European Economic Integration*, Ch. 5. The Economics of Preferential Liberalization. [Slides](#)

- Hufbauer, Schott, and Wong, *Figuring out the Doha Round*, Peterson Institute (2010), pp. 1-35, 81-108.
- Petri & Plummer, "The Economic Effects of the TPP: New Estimates" Ch.1 in Cimino & Schott, *Trans-Pacific Partnership: An Assessment*, Peterson Institute 2016
- Lawrence & Moran, "Adjustment & Income Distribution Impacts of TPP" Ch. 2 in Cimino & Schott
- François, ["Reducing Transatlantic Barriers to Trade and Investment" CEPR \(March 2013\)](#)
- Novy, ["TTIP – Is free trade coming to the north Atlantic?" \(May 2014\)](#)
- Dreyer, ["Time is running out for a TTIP deal" \(June 2016\)](#)
- [2015 Report to Congress on China's WTO Compliance](#) Executive Summary, pp. 2-28.

Term Paper Topics are Due on September 29th

Midterm – October 18

Fall Break – October 20

Part III: October 25 – November 17: The European Crisis: the Euro, Migration, Brexit

- Baldwin & Wyplosz, *European Economic Integration*, Ch. 16-17, 19.
- [Black, "Fixing the Flaws in the Eurozone," VoxEU.org 2010](#)
- [Intro from Baldwin & Giavazzi *The Eurozone Crisis*](#)
- [Aiyar, Berger, Detragiache, Spilimbergo, "Europe's refugee surge: Economic and policy implications"](#)
- [Kirkegaard, "Toward a European Migration and Mobility Union"](#)
- [Armstrong & Portes, "Economic Consequences of Leaving the EU"](#)
- [Ebel & Warren, "The Long-Term Economic Impact of Leaving the EU"](#)
- [Baldwin, *Brexit Beckons*, VoxEU.org 2016](#)

Term Paper is due on October 27.

Part IV: November 22 – December 6: Individual Presentations on Term Papers

Final Exam – December 10 12-3PM