

GOALS AND REQUIREMENTS

GOAL: To acquaint students with Russia's contemporary economic system and its special place in the new global economic order between the Asia and the West. The narrative will elucidate the current conflicts between Russia and Ukraine, the EU and the United States, as well as Russia's pivot toward China.

PREREQUISITES: ECON 310, C or better in ECON 400 and ECON 410.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Students should have a working knowledge of microeconomic theory. The subject matter is micro-theoretical, institutional and cross-cultural. Graphical methods are employed. Calculus is not essential.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Midterm exam (essay)** is optional. It counts for 33.3% of the course grade.

2. **The final exam (essay)** is obligatory. It counts 67% of the course grade if the midterm is taken and 100% otherwise.

3. **Attendance:** Is compulsory and a record is kept. Students who miss 5 to 7 classes will be penalized a half letter grade for the course. Those missing 8-10 classes will be penalized a full letter grade. Those missing more than 10 classes will **FAIL**. The count begins on the third day of class. Absence from any scheduled classes other than the voluntary midterm count against you. No excuses including medical, family and jobs interviews are accepted and there are no make-up options.

5. **Tardiness:** Students who arrive after I take attendance will be considered absent.

RULES: Exams

All exams are in essay format. You must comprehend and interpret questions properly (as I deem correct), and cannot twist questions as you may prefer.

Use blue books. Do not sign your exams with your name. **Pledge** the honor code with your **student ID#**.

Use a **pen** and **write legibly**. Undecipherable passages will incur the "cost" of the "doubt."
Illegible exams must be typed, and resubmitted together with the handwritten version.

Students who cannot write legibly for any reason may take exams at the learning center, but are responsible for making the necessary arrangements well in advance.

GRADING: Grades depend primarily on your grasp of the question, mastery, analytic prowess, insightfulness and the thoroughness of your answers, not rote (including verbatim memorization of the textbook, and other plagiarized sources). I don't ask true/false or multiple choice questions. "Cut and paste" is not good enough. Factual accuracy is expected including strategic citations from appropriate sources. If facts are misstated or misconstrued, these errors will be penalized. Graphs must be complete, with all elements accurately labeled. The economic meaning of graphic elements and underlying equilibrating mechanisms must be adequately stated. Right opinion is irrelevant (see Plato). Grades are not curved. I read all examinations at the same time so that I can accurately gauge your performance relative to the class norm.

Exams are graded anonymously applying the standards set forth above. From time to time students may disagree with my judgment about the quality of their responses. Except in cases of factual error, I alone am responsible for judging your performance.

Course grades depend solely on exams. No credit is given for class participation (but chronic unexcused absences are penalized). Tardiness will be treated as an absence, unless students inform me that they were late at the end of each class. No credit is given for claimed "hard work." No credit is given because you think that you performed better than I judge. No credit is given because you received a better grade in a previous course that I taught. Courses and grades are independent. There are no options for extra credit. No consideration is given to self-proclaimed "needs." Grade requirements imposed by external parties like graduate school admission boards, or scholarship committees are not a valid basis for determining course grades.

Students are not permitted to retake exams unless they have valid written medical excuses or other equivalent authoritative justification.

GRADING SCALE (ALPHABETIC): A grade of C is assigned to exams that demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of the course material, allowance made for various minor errors of fact, and comprehension. A grade of B is assigned to exams that demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of the course material allowance made for various minor errors of fact, and comprehension. A grade of A is assigned to exams that demonstrate a superior and complete knowledge and understanding of the course material, allowance made for various minor errors of fact, and comprehension. A grade of D is assigned to exams that fail to display a basic knowledge and understanding of the course material, allowance made for various minor errors of fact, and comprehension. A grade of F is assigned to exams that fail to display the minimal knowledge and understanding of the course material required for a grade of D, allowance made for various minor errors of fact, and comprehension.

GRADING SCALE (NUMERIC): Exams are graded numerically with scores converted to alphabetic grades. The C range is 70-79.99; B range is 80-89.99 and A range is 90-100. C, B, A correspond to scores respectively from 72.5-77.4; 82.5-87.4; and 92.5-97.4. Minuses and pluses fall in the remainder of each grade range. The sub-ranges give the benefit of the doubt to those in the minus range.

PAST GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS: More than 60 percent of prior students in this course have received As and Bs. This isn't a contract. It is only an indicator.

GRADE INFLATION: Grade inflation refers to a phenomenon that sometimes arises where various faculty or departments at UNC choose to over-grade students. The Department of Economics opposes awarding unmerited high grades.

REPORTING

Course grades are electronically distributed to students soon after they are submitted. Do not email me for your course grade. If you wish to know your final exam score after receiving your course grade, you can email me. If wish to see your exam, please email for an appointment.

I place the best class exam in the manila box across from my office door. You are welcome to read it at your convenience. It is advisable to do so before making an appointment to see your exam. This facilitates review and evaluation. The rules stipulated above concerning your grasp of questions, mastery, analytic prowess, insightfulness and the thoroughness will govern appraisals.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE BAN

Unless explicitly authorized, you are not permitted to use a laptop computer, tablet computer, smart phone, or cell phone during class. Watching movies and videos, playing games, checking the scores on espn.com, and chatting with your friends are disruptive behavior that will not be tolerated.

SCHEDULE:

1. First Day of Class: Tuesday August 21
2. Ackland Thursday, October 11
3. Midterm Exam: Tuesday, October 16
4. Fall Break Wednesday-Monday, October 17-22
5. Classes End: Tuesday, December 4
7. Final Exam: Thursday, December 13. 8-10am

OFFICE: Gardner 300-D

OFFICE HOURS: TTH 1045-1145AM. By appointment.