

ECO 6936: Global Trade and Policy

Instructor

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Required Materials:

International Trade, 4th edition, Robert Feenstra and Alan Taylor (FT)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to develop an understanding of global trade flows and trade policy. The total volume of trade (including imports and exports) in the United States exceeds \$5 trillion annually. Companies, large and small, engage in the purchase and sale of goods and services across borders. In fact, 58% of small businesses have international customers. Understanding these international flows will enhance your ability to engage in and manage international transactions.

The content of this course will inform your understanding of international business and government policies. I want to emphasize that memorization is pointless. Instead, gaining a working understanding of some basic microeconomic principles and international trade theories, as well as developing competence with the analytical tools covered in this course, will allow you to analyze numerous unfamiliar issues that arise in international trade.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

1. Continued enrollment in this course is equivalent to acceptance of all stated responsibilities, policies, and due dates. If there is anything that is unclear, talk to me *immediately*. Waiting until the end of the term often results in less favorable outcomes.
2. Students are expected to watch the lecture videos and submit assignments according to the schedule in this syllabus. To accommodate your professional schedule, there is a great deal of flexibility built into the schedule. Most assignments are open for an entire week. This should not, however, imply that deadlines themselves are flexible. Quite the opposite, because assignments are open for an entire week, all deadlines will be strictly enforced.
3. Students are expected to complete six analytic problem sets. These problem sets relate to the topics of the preceding lectures and are intended to offer you practice with the relevant mathematical techniques. In some cases, questions offer important extensions of the material covered in class. *See Page 2 for a more thorough explanation of problem sets.*
4. There is a two-hour cumulative final exam that is required for successful completion of this course. This exam will be taken synchronously at 7:00pm on Wednesday, April 20. This exam is a closed-book exam and is to be taken individually. Any collaboration, with classmates or other individuals, is impermissible. As the course progresses, I will explain the structure and composition of the exam.

COURSE DELIVERY

Global Trade and Policy is an online course. This means all lectures and assignments can be completed online. In fact, all course lectures and assignments have already been uploaded into the Canvas course site. Each week's page in Canvas links to assigned readings, short content lectures, practice worksheets, worksheet solution videos, and assigned problem sets.

While this course is entirely online, there are strict assignment due dates, and the exam must be taken synchronously. The assignments are available well enough in advance to provide necessary flexibility. You are expected to plan ahead and meet these deadlines. The exam date and time is also firm, because all students must take the exam together to uphold the University's expectations for academic integrity.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS

All important course announcements concerning the class will be made via UF email. You are responsible for all information communicated through this channel. I assume that you are checking your UF email account at least once per day.

Most of our one-on-one communication will occur via UF email. I will always respond to these emails within 48 hours, and typically much quicker. If you have not received a response within 48 hours, please assume that I have not seen your email and resend it.

PROBLEM SET GUIDELINES AND DUE DATES

There are six problem sets required for successful completion this course. These problem sets are designed to provide you with practice with the theories, models, and analytical tools covered in this course. My hope is that these problem sets will assist you in understanding the content of this course, and in preparing for the final exam.

You may work in groups, but each student is responsible for turning in his or her own work, which must include his or her own individual mathematical derivations and written explanations. Submitting another student's work as your own constitutes a violation of the UF Honor Code and will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

All Problem Sets should be submitted to Canvas by the posted due date and time. Late submissions will not be accepted, even a few minutes late. Additionally, submissions **MUST** adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) All submissions should be typed (including math equations) and sent in a PDF file.
- 2) Assignments should be professionally presented. Your name should appear at the top of each page as a header, and pages should be numbered.
- 3) All graphs should be legible and accurate. Approximations and sloppy expositions are rarely sufficient for receiving credit. That being said, graphs can be hand-drawn and scanned into your document.

The problem set due dates are as follows:

| PROBLEM SET | OPEN DATE AND TIME | DUE DATE AND TIME |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Problem Set 1: | Opens at 8:00am on February 28 | Due at 8:00am on March 14 |
| Problem Set 2: | Opens at 8:00am on March 14 | Due at 8:00am on March 21 |
| Problem Set 3: | Opens at 8:00am on March 21 | Due at 8:00am on March 28 |
| Problem Set 4: | Opens at 8:00am on March 28 | Due at 8:00am on April 4 |
| Problem Set 5: | Opens at 8:00am on April 4 | Due at 8:00am on April 11 |
| Problem Set 6: | Opens at 8:00am on April 11 | Due at 8:00am on April 18 |

GRADING POLICY

Grades are calculated as follows: Average of Highest Five Problem Sets (50%), Final Exam (50%). Your lowest problem set will be automatically dropped at the end of the term. Your final course grade will be assigned according to the concordance table below.

| | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------|----|
| 92.00-100 | A | 77.00-79.99 | C+ |
| 90.00-91.99 | A- | 72.00-76.99 | C |
| 87.00-89.99 | B+ | 70.00-71.99 | C- |
| 82.00-86.99 | B | 65.00-69.99 | D |
| 80.00-81.99 | B- | 0-64.99 | E |

The scale listed above is firm. Students should assume that 91.99 is followed by an infinite number of nines and the rest of the cut-offs follow accordingly. No matter how close you may be to the next higher grade, I cannot change your grade. Although I will gladly review your grade to make sure you are evaluated fairly, I will not round final grades or offer extra credit at the end of the term.

If you would like to contest a problem set or exam score that has been posted, you *must* contest this with me via email within one week of the score posting to the Canvas gradebook. This policy is only in place to restrict unprofessional “point grabbing” at the end of the term.

Any late submissions that are not explicitly excused by the UF Attendance Policy will receive a score of zero. Any extensions or make-ups must be arranged before the submission date/time and will only be offered for personal illness, UF-related scheduling conflicts, and religious commitments and worship. Keep in mind that your academic obligations *always* take precedence over personal and social commitments.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

---AND---

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

MAKE-UP POLICY

Make-up problem sets and exams will only be granted with documentation of an absence that is explicitly excused by the UF Attendance Policy. While I understand that securing documentation for some legitimate absences will be difficult or even impossible, I cannot accommodate for these instances. For this reason, I drop your lowest problem set score.

In the case of known conflicts and all non-emergency illnesses/issues, requests for make-up problem sets and exams must be made *five business days before* the regularly scheduled test date. Make-up requests may be sent to my email address, thomas.knight@ufl.edu. If I do not respond in 48 hours, assume that I have not seen your request, and resend it. Emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

If conflicts between your personal life and the course schedule occur, the course schedule takes priority. You should address and resolve any such issues before proceeding in the course past the Drop/Add period.

INTERNET CONNECTIVITY ISSUES

I only offer make-up assignments or exams when there are known system-wide outages. These are the only outages that I can verify. I cannot verify individual connectivity problems, and thus, cannot accommodate them. This is why I drop your two lowest quiz scores.

You are responsible for verifying that any online assignment submission has properly been submitted through Canvas. As a best practice, after submitting any assignment, close your browser, reopen Canvas, and download your own submission. As an additional best practice, never submit an assignment through the Canvas mobile app.

You must have a strong and reliable internet connection to take online exams using Honorlock. When taking online exams, some general best practices are...

1. Use a hardwired ethernet connection if possible.
2. If you must use WiFi, you should ensure that you have a strong and stable internet connection. As a rule of thumb, if you have trouble streaming videos, you will not be able to take an online exam.
3. If you must use WiFi, ask others to refrain from using the internet during your exam if possible.
4. Public WiFi and Hotspots are not suitable for taking online exams.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You are expected to abide by the University's rules for academic honesty as outlined in the UF Student Honor Code. All suspicious evidence of cheating, plagiarism, making false statements, and any other violation of these rules will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. Additionally, I will advocate for the strictest of available sanctions (inc. dismissal from the University of Florida) for any student who is found responsible for violating these rules.

It is important to note that cheating and plagiarism are not the only forms of academic dishonesty. "Making a false or misleading statement for the purpose of procuring an improper academic advantage" is also a violation of the UF Student Honor Code. This includes making false statements to your instructor and/or presenting forged documents (e.g., doctors' notes). I verify suspicious claims, for example, by contacting the student's medical provider or by reviewing their UF systems connection data.

While collaboration on Problem Sets is permitted, any work that you submit for evaluation and grading should be your own. Collaboration on exams is strictly prohibited.

The complete UF Student Honor Code is available at: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

SPECIAL NEEDS AND GENERAL COMMENTS ON WELLNESS

If you are a student with special needs and you require additional resources to participate successfully in this course, please contact me during the first week of classes. The Disability Resource Center may provide special accommodations for students. Once you obtain documentation from the DRC, please forward it to me and accommodations can be arranged.

College is an exciting learning experience and a unique opportunity for personal growth. It can, however, also be a stressful and difficult transitional period. If you are ever having general issues with your coursework *in any course* or trouble in your personal life, please seek help from myself or another faculty member. I also encourage you to utilize the *FREE* and *ANONYMOUS* services of the UF Counseling and Wellness Center.

NOTE ON END-OF-TERM COURSE EVALUATIONS

At the end of each term, you have the ability to evaluate the quality of each of your courses and the effectiveness of your instructors. I encourage you to take this opportunity seriously and to provide serious and informative feedback. Personally, I am always trying to improve my course – tweaking it bit-by-bit each term – and student feedback is essential to making real improvements. As the term nears an end, I will discuss this issue (numerous times) in lecture, as I believe the high quality of your education depends on your constructive criticism and affirming support. You can access end-of-term course evaluations at: <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>

COURSE OUTLINE (AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE)

Week of February 28 – March 4:

Review: Syllabus

Watch: Introduction Videos 1-5 AND Week 1, Videos 1-5

Review: Worksheets 1-4 and Solution Videos

Complete: Problem Set 1 (Due 3/14 at 8am)

Week of March 7 – March 11: Spring Break

Week of March 14 – March 18:

Watch: Week 2, Videos 1-5

Read: FT Chapter 2

Review: Worksheets 1-3 and Solution Videos

Complete: Problem Set 2 (Due 3/21 at 8am)

Week of March 21 – March 25:

Watch: Week 3, Videos 1-6

Read: FT Chapter 8

Review: Worksheets 1-3 and Solution Videos

Complete: Problem Set 3 (Due 3/28 at 8am)

Week of March 28 – April 1:

Watch: Week 4, Videos 1-5

Read: FT Chapter 3

Review: Worksheets 1&2 and Solution Videos

Complete: Problem Set 4 (Due 4/4 at 8am)

Week of April 4 – April 8:

Watch: Week 5, Videos 1-5

Read: FT Chapter 6

Review: Worksheets 1-4 and Solution Videos

Complete: Problem Set 5 (Due 4/11 at 8am)

Week of April 11 – April 15:

Watch: Week 6, Videos 1-5

Read: FT Chapter 10

Review: Worksheet 1&2 and Solution Videos

Complete: Problem Set 6 (Due 4/18 at 8am)

April 20: FINAL EXAM at 7:00pm