

General Information, Resource Materials, Course Organization, and Miscellaneous Information for ECON 310, International Economy Fall 2007

I. General Information

Introduction

Welcome to ECON 310, International Economy. This course investigates the process of international commerce among nations. The basic theory of trade and exchange rates, institutional and legal environments, and current policy issues are covered. This course is not open to students who have taken ECON 412 and economics majors should check with their advisor to make sure credit applies toward the economics degree. The prerequisites for the course are ECON 200 or 201 or both 211 and 212, or consent of instructor.

The primary objectives of the course are to: (1) develop an understanding of international economic activity, (2) explore gains from trade, the mechanisms necessary to capture these gains, and the incentives (some groups have) to avoid them, and (3) explore the institutional systems used to cope with international economic activity. Major goals are to establish the importance of the gains from international economic activity and to identify the gainers and losers of this activity. Concepts will be illustrated and reinforced with numerous contemporary "real-world" examples. Policy implications will also be investigated. Investigation of the balance of payments and exchange rates will also form a significant portion of the course.

Instructor

I am Gary J. Wells, visiting professor in Applied Economics and Statistics. My professional interests include international economic activity and globalization. I have served as visiting fellow in the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service and consult for the World Bank.

My contact information is:

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Scheduled office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., but I am in the office much of the time, and I check my e-mail frequently.

Class Communication

To the extent possible announcements will be made during class time. However as needed, I will send e-mails to the class and/or post information on the course's message board, which can be accessed from the course home page on Blackboard. (E-mails will be sent to your Clemson e-mail address. You need to visit the course Web site and check for e-mail on a regular basis.)

II. Resource Materials

The required materials for the course are:

- *International Economics for Non-Economists (available on CD)* by Gary J. Wells (Available on the course Web site)
- *The Choice: A Fable of Free Trade and Protectionism* by Russell Roberts (2007. Pearson-Prentice Hall. ISBN 0-13-143354-7) (Available in the University bookstore or it can be ordered through most commercial bookstores. This is a new edition of this book.)

III. Organization of the Course

Attendance

Attendance is expected. You will be responsible for **all** assignments and announced changes in the schedule made during class time, posted on the course Web site and/or distributed through your University e-mail account. Absence from class does not alter the due date of assignments. Roll will be taken periodically and will contribute to any extra credit awarded during the semester. (See the grading factors section below for more information.)

The official University waiting time for a professor is fifteen minutes. I make it a practice to be on time, but if I am late by more than fifteen minutes, class will be canceled.

Covering the *International Economics for Non-Economists* CD-based material

Coverage of the CD-based text is divided into three sections. Each section will conclude with a 100 point cumulative test. The sections are:

- Section I—Chapters 1-4 (100 point test **covering chapters 1-4**)
- Section II—Chapters 5-8 (100 point test **covering chapters 1-8**)
- Section III—Chapters 9-11 (100 point test **covering chapters 1-11**)
- Final—See the course calendar for exam times (100 point cumulative test)

Grading Factors

Tests/Final (300 points)

- There will be three in-class tests and the final (i.e., a total of 4 tests).
- Each test (including the final) counts 100 points.
- Tests 2, 3 and the final are cumulative. Questions covering earlier material may or may not have appeared on earlier tests. The final is cumulative and formatted like the tests during the semester.
- The dates for tests will be announced well in advance. It is your responsibility to know when the tests are scheduled.
- **Tests will only be given during the class period or during the makeup period described below.**
- **The first test missed (for whatever reason) will be dropped.** That is, a score of zero will be assigned for the missed test and then dropped when the course average is calculated. If no tests (including the final) are missed, then the lowest test score will be dropped. Dropping the lowest score applies only to tests and the final. The grade for the other assignments—QTT and the Choice Exam (see below)—will not be dropped.

- An excuse is not required for the first missed test. This is the test that will be dropped regardless of the reason for the absence. If a second test is missed, an acceptable excuse [i.e., a written excuse verified by an acceptable outside source (e.g. school administrator or physician)] is required before a makeup will be administered. To the extent possible (especially non-emergency situations), permission to miss a test should be sought prior to the scheduled test time. An essay format may be used for makeup tests. Makeup tests will be given during the final exam period. If you intend to take a makeup test during the final exam, you need to inform me a few days prior to the final.

Other Grading Factors

- **The Choice Assignment** (100 points): This assignment is divided into two parts. Part I involves preparing questions from *The Choice: A Fable of Free Trade and Protectionism*. These will be discussed in class. Part II is a test of the material covered in the book. (See the assignment for specifics.)
- **QQT** (100 points): You are responsible for bringing to the first class devoted to a chapter from the CD text a quote, a question, and two talking points (QQT). The QQT must be typed. If you do not attend the class in its entirety, the QQT is not to be submitted. Attempts to turn in these assignments without attending the class will constitute cheating (see Academic Honesty below). Your QQT should be the result of your reading of the CD text. (See the assignment for specifics.)
- **Extra Credit** opportunities may be offered during the semester. The exact value of extra credit will not be determined until after the final exam, but in no case will the maximum extra credit exceed 2% of the total course points (10 points) and may be less than a total of 10 points. That is, the extra credit will, at best, move a student from the plus level of one grade (e.g., B+) to the lowest level of the next grade (e.g., A-), but every effort should be sought to attain the highest possible grade without the extra credit.

Points

Three tests and the final	300 points (100 points each, lowest score dropped)
The Choice Exam	100 points
QQT	100 points
Total	500 points

Course Grade

The anticipated grading scale is:

- A 90% to 100% (450-500 points)
- B 80% to but not including 90% (400 up to but not including 450 points)
- C 70% to but not including 80% (350 up to but not including 400 points)
- D 60% to but not including 70% (300 up to but not including 350 points)
- F Below 60% (Less than 300 points)
- Any changes in this scale will be to your advantage

Other grading information includes:

- Scores will not be rounded upward.
- Any extra credit earned will not be added to the average until after the final exam. You should take all opportunities to improve your grade from required material.

IV. Miscellaneous Information

The Course Web Site

Assignments and other course material have been posted on the course web site. The web site, which is formatted in Blackboard, is accessible via the “MyCLE – Computing Resources” link at www.clemson.edu. Your grades will also be posted in the web site’s grade book.

Class Schedule/Calendar

A tentative class schedule/calendar is posted on the course web site in the “course information” folder. It may be necessary to change the schedule during the semester. If the schedule is changed, the change will be announced in class and an updated schedule will be posted on the web site.

Posting grades

Grades will be posted in the course Web site grade book. Every effort will be made to record grades in a timely fashion. **You should check the grade book after each grading factor and contact me immediately if you believe a recording error has been made. The grade book will serve as notification of your mid-term grade.**

Academic Honesty

Clemson’s policy on academic integrity is "As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a 'high seminary of learning.' Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form." Students caught plagiarizing or otherwise cheating will receive an F for the course. Attempting to turn in assignments requiring class attendance but not attending the class should be considered as not conforming to academic integrity.