

APEC 421/621—Globalization Spring 2009

Welcome

Welcome to the world of Globalization. In some respects, this course is like studying the universe and everything in it. To make the task manageable, we will take steps to narrow the agenda. We'll place economics at the center of the discussion, exploring how economic systems propel globalization, influence other systems while simultaneously being influenced by these same systems. During the semester we will watch an excellent on-line documentary, read a highly acclaimed book, complete globalization exercises, and prepare a major case. In short, we will explore globalization by mirroring its multi-faceted nature, a nature contributing to globalization's power and controversy.

What the course is about

This course utilizes basic principles of international economics (comparative advantage, free trade vs. protectionism, exchange rate determination, etc.) to analyze the contemporary problems and issues of the world economy. Emphasis will be placed on application of economic principles to analyze current globalization trends. We will explore the concept of globalization utilizing contemporary problems and issues of the world economy.

Required material

1. Wolf, Martin. *Why Globalization Works*. Yale University Press. ISBN 0-300-10777-3 (This is the paperback edition, but the hardcover is identical in content, so either is acceptable.)
2. *Commanding Heights*. An on-line PBS documentary available at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/lo/index.html> (A copy of the video will also be on reserve at the library for viewing, or you may purchase the documentary at the above web site.) (Also, you can select the "Rich-Media" link for more viewing options.). Finally, the documentary is available at Netflix (and maybe other video rental sites).

Computer requirements

Dedicated access to a computer with a reliable Internet connection allowing you to utilize Clemson's Blackboard system is a must. A high speed connection is best, but reliable dial-up connections have worked in the past. Reliability is the key. Experience indicates that using a computer in a public library may not be reliable. This course is **deadline driven**. As a result, you need to be able to control your computer access times. You also need standard software (e.g., MS Office or compatible system, a web browser, media viewer, Adobe Acrobat etc.).

How the course is organized

Assignments will make extensive use of Blackboard's discussion board facility. For the typical pattern you will read the assignment (or view in the case of *Commanding*

Heights), prepare a report in the format described, post your work, and then comment on other postings. An advantage of this system is that you do not have to be logged onto the system at any particular time. That is, this course is organized asynchronously. You may post your analysis and discussions at any time day or night. However as with everything, there is a catch. This is a **deadline-driven** approach. **For it to work, deadlines have to be met.** If your assignment is late, the class, which has moved on, does not benefit from your input. As a result, there will be **substantial and rapidly growing penalties (up to 100%) for late assignments.**

The course is structured to proceed at a steady pace during which time you will interact several times a week with me, course content, and classmates.

With each assignment your responsibility is to convince me you have read or, in the case of *Commanding Heights*, viewed the material, thereby expanding your understanding of globalization. You do not have to agree with all the assignments because, like globalization, some are controversial. However, when you disagree put forth a well-reasoned, civil argument supporting your viewpoint, always remaining respectful of your fellow classmates. Perhaps John Wooden best summed up the atmosphere we need to cultivate.

The John Wooden rules

As many of you may know John Wooden is a basketball legend. He coached the UCLA men's basketball team to more national championships, by far, than any other coach. He had three simple rules for his players—(1) no profanity, (2) don't be late, and (3) never criticize teammates. We will utilize these rules making the necessary adjustments. The "no profanity" rule does not have to be adjusted. The "don't be late" rule stresses the deadline-driven nature of the course. Finally, we can change the "never criticize teammates" rule to never criticize classmates. You may disagree with what a fellow classmate's analysis, but do it in a respectful manner, never attacking the individual. Finally, do not pass judgment on the grade a fellow student should receive. That's my job.

Keeping on Track

To make sure you are on track I may from time to time communicate privately with you. Also, I will post grades in the "My Grades" folder located on Blackboard. You should check your grades frequently. They will serve as your mid-term grade report. If you have a question about a grade, contact me either via e-mail (waward@clemsun.edu), telephone (864-656-5788) or by coming by my office (258 Barre Hall).

Getting Started

Visit the course Web site, which is part of Clemson's MyCLE system, as soon as possible. Assignments, this syllabus, and calendars can be found in the "Course Information" folder. Read them carefully.

Be sure to print the course calendar, referring to it often because it is your responsibility to stay on schedule.

Course organization

The course is divided into three main parts. **Part I** is an introduction to globalization. It runs from January 7 through January 28. In the first assignment you formulate a definition of globalization and discuss classmate definitions. You then view the 6-hour PBS documentary entitled *Commanding Heights*, which is available on-line. This excellent documentary is divided into three 2-hour segments. Each will form the basis of an assignment. **See the “Course Information” folder for details.**

Part II of the course runs from February 1 through March 4. Here you will read Martin Wolf’s argument in favor of globalization in his highly acclaimed 2004 book entitled *Why Globalization Works*. Mr. Wolf, an excellent economist in his own right, is associate editor and chief economics commentator at the *Financial Times* of London. *Why Globalization Works* is written from the point of view of an economist, making the book a somewhat challenging read. Again we will discuss the book via discussion board postings. **See the “Course Information” folder for details.**

Part III is a departure from the pattern established during Parts I and II. Here you will work on a major case study and two shorter exercises. Details of this portion of the course will be distributed as soon as they are available. Part III will run from March 5 until the end of the semester.

The Final, comprising 10% of the course grade, is a crucial part of the learning experience. Unlike what you are used to, **the final is available in the “Course Information” folder now. Read it as soon as possible because you are expected to work on it throughout the semester.** The final can help you personalize the material from this course to your own situation. Do not treat it lightly. It is due by 5:00 pm May 1.

Grading

	Percent
Part I	20%
Part II	30%
Part III	40%
Final	10%

Missed deadlines will be penalized up to 100% and penalties will rise quickly

Instructor—William A. Ward

waward@clemson.edu

Applied Economics and Statistics

258 Barre Hall

Clemson University

Clemson, SC 29634

(864) 656-5788

Correspondence

Assignments will be graded as quickly as feasible and e-mails will be answered in a timely fashion. If you have a question, do not wait until the last minute to contact me—the earlier you contact me the better.

MISC.

The University administration asks that students be made aware of the following information. “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.”