

Text: James Gerber, *International Economics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

Web Site: <http://www.economicissues.net/global/globalblog.html>

Objective: Learn to think in a manner consistent with the existence of scarcity, with special emphasis on the gains from trade, trade restrictions, trade agreements, and international monetary relations.

Office Hours: You are encouraged to ask questions during and after class. If you want to speak with me at length or need assistance, I am usually available in my office, Business 324-J, Tuesdays and Thursdays during these time periods: 8:30am - 10:30am, 1:00pm - 2:00, and by appointment. Set up an appointment by calling (244-3989) or emailing me. I will work around your schedule.

Examinations, Presentation, Blogging, and Homework: There will be three homework assignments, one blogging post and four comments, three in-term exams, and one final group presentation. The weights are as follows:

| <u>EXAM, PRESENTATION, BLOGGING, &amp; HOMEWORK</u> | <u>WEIGHT</u> |
|---|---------------|
| In Class Assignments / Homework                     | 10%           |
| Blogging  | 20%           |
| First Exam  | 15%           |
| Second Exam   | 20%           |
| Third Exam  | 20%           |
| Group Presentation                                  | 15%           |

These exams will consist of multiple-choice and discussion questions. All exams will be cumulative and comprehensive, including all material covered before the exam.

**No make-ups for the in-term exams will be given.** If you miss one in-term exam, its weight will automatically shift to the other exams, at no penalty to you. **No exam grades will be dropped.** If you choose to take an exam, the grade you receive will become part of your average for the class. If you miss more than one in-term exam, I reserve the right to either give you a zero on one or both missed exams, or require additional work from you.

In Class Assignments / Homework Assignments (HM) will consist of 10% of your grade and will be due on the dates listed on the calendar. These assignments will consist of essay and short answer questions that reinforce the topics discussed in class. Homework can be done alone or in groups of up to four. If a group works on the homework together, only **one set** of questions and answers should be turned in for the individual group members. This way everyone in the group will receive exactly the same grade for the assignment. Absolutely **NO** late homework assignments will be accepted.

Blogging: (BL) One written component of this class will consist of weblogging (blogging). A blog for this class has been set up at [www.economicissues.net/global/globalblog.html](http://www.economicissues.net/global/globalblog.html). You will be e-mailed an invitation containing a link to a webpage. Copy this link into your browser, click enter, and follow the directions. You may choose to write and comment under a pseudonym. *Note that an invitation only works once; if you goof it up, I will have to send you another. Please don't be embarrassed to ask.*

Blogging is an interactive and hopefully entertaining process between writers and readers. Readers, including me, may not agree with the opinions you express, and are free to tell you so. I attempt to stick to assertions, facts, and conclusions that are within the mainstream of economics. Please try not to be offended at any blog comments I or others may make, but please do inform me if you are offended.

Blog Grading: The grading system for blogging is unusual. Each student is required to create one post 200 words or more. Your post will link to an online article and analyze and summarize the merits of the piece. Your post is worth 80 points of your blogging grade. Each student will be given a topic and due date for the blogging assignment. You will receive more information the second week of class. Each comment, where you critique someone else's post, is worth 5 points. These can be performed at anytime during the semester. In addition, I may subtract points for errors in analysis, spelling, grammar, or style. In order to get 100 points on the blogging portion of your grade, you must flawlessly compose your post and make 4 comments during the semester.

Presentations: Students will be assigned to one of eight or nine groups that will develop an executive report (3 pages) and make presentations the last 2 days of class. Each group will discuss a current event or issue in international trade. You will introduce the issue, define the important points, and present an analysis of the topic as a policy maker. Each group member will be graded based on their group presentation, their group report, the group's ability to answer questions from the class, and individual effort as assigned by the other group members. Your group may choose any topic, however, it must first be approved by me.

Grading: Academic regulations and procedures as found in the *AUM Catalog* govern all grading and academic policies. Because each class and assignment is unique, the grading scale may vary. This is a rough idea of the scale you can expect:

$$85 - 100 = A \quad 70 - 84 = B \quad 55 - 69 = C \quad 45 - 54 = D \quad < 45 = F$$

The actual grading scale will be determined only at the end of the semester.

Grade Disputes: Any course grade dispute must be initiated within five weeks of the grade being posted, in accordance with University and School policies.

Attendance: If I plan to give a worthless lecture, I will cancel class. Attendance is not required, though highly recommended. Initially, I will take role as an inexpensive way to learn your names. If I am late, please wait 10 minutes before leaving the classroom. Please switch all phones and pagers to vibrate. If you are late, minimize your disturbance.

Students with Disabilities: As a Faculty member in the School of Business I will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the unique and special needs of students with respect to speech, hearing, vision, seating, or other possible disabilities. During the first week of class please contact me if you require special accommodations and I, along with representatives from the Center for Special Services, will work with you.

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty will be treated per the stated regulations in the AUM Student Handbook. All work must be your own or the groups own as it pertains to group work. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are not in conflict with the stated regulations.

NOTE 1: All chapter numbers refer to Gerber.

NOTE 2: Reading assignments may be changed at any time. I will announce any changes in class.

NOTE 3: Exam dates are shown in boldface, thus: **10, 10, and 21**

| Date   | Readings               | Topic  |
|--------|------------------------|--|
| 13-Jan |                        | Introduction; Math Pre-Quiz; Math Review                                   |
| 18-Jan | 2                      | <i>Commanding Heights (Episode 1-A)</i> ; Global Economic Institutions     |
| 20-Jan | 3                      | <b>HM #1 Assigned</b> ; Ricardian Model; Comparative Advantage             |
| 25-Jan | 3                      | <b>MATH QUIZ; BLG. DATES ASSIGNED</b> ; Efficiency Gains From Trade        |
| 27-Jan | 4                      | Factor Endowment Theory, Heckscher-Ohlin                                   |
| 1-Feb  | 4                      | Factor Endowment Theory, Heckscher-Ohlin, Part 2                           |
| 3-Feb  |                        | <b>HM #1 Due</b> ; <i>Commanding Heights (Episode 1-B)</i>                 |
| 8-Feb  | 4                      | The Product Cycle; Review  |
| 10-Feb | <b>2-4</b>             | <b>First Exam Thursday, February 10th</b>                                  |
| 15-Feb | 5                      | Intra-Industry Trade; External Scale Economies                             |
| 17-Feb | 6                      | <b>HM #2 Assigned</b> ; Tariffs: Small Country                             |
| 22-Feb | 6                      | Tariffs: Large Country   |
| 24-Feb | 6, 7                   | Quotas; Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade                                       |
| 1-Mar  | 7, 8                   | <b>HM #2 Due</b> ; Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade, Part 2                    |
| 3-Mar  |                        | <i>Commanding Heights (Episode 2-A)</i> ;                                  |
| 8-Mar  | 2-8                    | Review   |
| 10-Mar | <b>2-8</b>             | <b>Second Exam Thursday, March 10th</b>                                    |
| 15-Mar |                        | <b>SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)</b>   |
| 17-Mar |                        | <b>SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)</b>   |
| 22-Mar |                        | <i>Commanding Heights (Episode 2-B)</i>                                    |
| 24-Mar | 9                      | Balance of Payments  |
| 29-Mar | 10                     | Exchange Rates in the Long Run; Exchange Rates in the Short Run            |
| 31-Mar | 10                     | <b>HM #3 Assigned</b> ; Exchange Rate Regimes; PPP; Hamburgernomics        |
| 5-Apr  |                        | <i>Commanding Heights (Episode 3-A)</i>                                    |
| 7-Apr  | 13                     | Integration in North America ; Impact of NAFTA                             |
| 12-Apr | 14, 16                 | EU Integration; East Asia Export   |
| 14-Apr |                        | <b>HM #3 Due</b> ; <i>Commanding Heights (Episode 3-B)</i> ;               |
| 19-Apr | 2-10, 13-14, 16        | Review   |
| 21-Apr | <b>2-10, 13-14, 16</b> | <b>Third Exam Thursday, April 21st</b>                                     |
| 26-Apr |                        | Student Presentations  |
| 28-Apr |                        | Student Presentations; Exit Exam   |
| 3-May  |                        | Student Presentations; Evaluations   |
| 12-May |                        | <b>Executive Reports Due, Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup> before 10:15 pm</b> |

I reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus at any time during the course.