

## SYLLABUS

**COURSE: ECON 4450, section 01. NAME: International Economics.  
Department of Economics. University of West Georgia.  
CRN: 80476. Term: Fall 2015. Dates: 8/24/2015 – 12/9/2015.  
Days & Time: M, W, 9:30am – 10:50am. Room: Miller Hall 1308.**

Instructor: Salvador Lopez, Ph.D.

Office: RCOB, 1317.

Telephone: 678-839-4778.

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Office Hours: M, W: 8 - 9am, 1 - 2pm. T, Th: 9am – 12pm.

**Textbook Reference:** Macro 3 ECON by William McEachern, 3rd Edition: Chapters 18-20 (copies available in D2L). International Economics by Dominick Salvatore, 10th Edition. Principles of Economics by Gregory Mankiw. Textbooks are not required but students are encouraged to use any Economics textbook to review the sections on supply and demand, aggregated demand and aggregate supply, and monetary and fiscal policy.

**Course Description:** The course will provide an overview of international economics topics including impact of monetary and fiscal policies on trade, trade between countries, trade disputes, exchange rates, and the role of international organizations such as the IMF, World Bank and WTO. Course emphasis is on current policy issues and the impact of the global economy on the business environment.

### **Learning Objectives:**

The overall objective of this course is for you to learn basic economic concepts, specifically international trade/finance and open economy macroeconomics. To this end, upon completion, students should:

- Communicate effectively in oral presentations and writing, accomplished by extensive case studies in class (LG1), apply quantitative skills to analyze exchange rates, from the classical to the modern (LG6).
- Possess substantial knowledge of international economic concepts including exchange rates models, international banking and financial system, along with the EURO (LG 10) and apply knowledge of economic concepts to strategies for addressing public policy issues (LG11) and also demonstrate an ability to generate and interpret descriptive statistics, specifically in exchange rate forecasting (LG12).
- Note: A complete list of expected learning goals (LG) for the Economics Department can be found at the department website ([www.westga.edu/~econ/outcomes.html](http://www.westga.edu/~econ/outcomes.html)).

### **Course Evaluation:**

1. Tests: students will take four tests worth 75% of the final grade. The first test (20%) will be based on a review of basic economics and Macroeconomics concepts. The second test (20%) will cover International Economics topics using chapters 18-20 of McEachern

(copies on D2L). The third test (20%) is based on the videos presented in class. The fourth test (15%), and final exam, will be based on the presentations made by the students in class.

2. Group Presentations: During the semester, students will submit group presentations based on international economic issues experienced by assigned countries. Each group will include three students who will show evidence of equal participation. The assignment of countries, and students, will be done randomly and the final instructions for the presentations will be provided by the instructor in a separate handout. The grade obtained from this activity will account for 10% of the final course grade.
3. Evaluation of Presentations: Students will be required to evaluate the presentations given by their classmates and any guest speaker invited to class. The grade assigned to this activity will be 5% of the final grade. The lowest grade will be dropped, which would include any absence, whether justified or not.
4. Clicker questions: Students will respond to clicker questions based on recent material covered (same day or day before). Video clips (approx. 15 minutes) usually will be followed by a quiz. The average grade of this activity will account for 10% of the final grade. The lowest grade will be dropped, which would include any absence whether justified or not.

The quizzes will be submitted using clickers, which will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of a session. After a clicker quiz is taken, the questions - without the answers - will be posted on D2L, so you can review them before a test.

**\*Cell phone policy:** Cell phones must be turned off before class starts. If you use your cell phone in class, you will receive a zero on all assignments for that day including tests, quizzes, presentations, and presentation evaluations. If you have a very special situation due to which you need to have your cell phone on, you must let me know in advance before class starts.

**Summary of Evaluation:**

Activity/Assignment	Percent of Final Grade	Date
Test 1	20%	W, 9/16
Test 2	20%	M, 10/12
Test 3	20%	M, 11/9
Presentations	10%	After test 3
Clicker questions	10%	daily
Participation (evaluations)	5%	After test 3
Final (student presentations)	15%	W, 12/9 (8:00am – 9:00am)

**Grade Distribution (strictly enforced):**

<u>Numerical Grade</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
0-59.95	F
59.96-69.95	D
69.96-79.95	C
79.96-89.95	B
89.96-100	A

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No extra credit of any kind will be assigned at the end of the semester to improve your grade.

**Cheating:** Academic dishonesty on any exam or in-class assignment done alone will result in a zero on the exam, an F for the course, a note recording the incident on the student's permanent record and the student reported to Student Services for appropriate disciplinary action by the University. Students not familiar with what constitutes academic dishonesty or those unfamiliar with the appeals procedures regarding academic dishonesty should refer to the UWG Undergraduate Catalog.

**Disruptive or disrespectful behavior:** Arriving late, leaving early, talking during lectures, yawning loud, using profane language, and using your cell phone (phone rings, phone calls, text messages) while in class, are some of the most common ways students may interrupt a class, disrespect classmates and the instructor, and, unfortunately, encourage others to do the same. If you consistently show a disruptive or disrespectful behavior as described above or on the Student Code of Conduct found in the UWG Student Handbook, you will receive a verbal warning. If your behavior continues, you may be dropped from the course with an F. Remember: cell phones must be turned off (no "silent" mode).

**Attendance policy and tardiness:** Students are not required to attend classes. However, absent students will get a grade of zero (0) on any quiz or graded activity. If the student has a valid excuse, he/she may take a make-up test. No other graded activity will be made up. Once class starts, I might place a "do not enter" sign on the classroom door or lock it. A student who enters the classroom despite such sign, he/she will get "zero" grades too.



### **IMPORTANT DOCUMENT**

Please carefully review the following information at this link:

[http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common\\_Language\\_for\\_Course\\_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)

It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR ECON 4450, FALL 2015. DEVIATIONS MAY OCCUR**

M, 8/24	Syllabus, clicker assignment, course introduction.
W, 8/26	Supply and demand review
M, 8/31	Supply and demand review
W, 9/2	Aggregate demand and aggregate supply
M, 9/7	Labor day holiday
W, 9/9	Monetary policy
M, 9/14	Fiscal policy
W, 9/16	Test 1: Basic Economics and Macro review
M, 9/21	International finance: balance of payments
W, 9/23	International finance: balance of payments
M, 9/28	Exchange rates and trade
W, 9/30	Exchange rates and trade
M, 10/5	Economic growth and development
W, 10/7	Economic growth and development
M, 10/12	Test 2: Intl. Finance, exchange rates, trade and Econ. Development
W, 10/14	Video: Sick around America
M, 10/19	Video: Sick around America
W, 10/21	Video: Sick around the World
M, 10/26	Video: Sick around the World
W, 10/28	Video: Money and Power
M, 11/2	Video: Money and Power
W, 11/4	Video: Money and Power
M, 11/9	Test 3: Videos
W, 11/11	Group presentations
M, 11/16	Group presentations
W, 11/18	Group presentations
M, 11/23	No classes (thanksgiving break)
W, 11/25	No classes (thanksgiving break)
M, 11/30	Group presentations
W, 12/2	Group presentations
W, 12/9	Test 4: group presentations