

ARE 448: INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE
COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING 2019

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Kathryn Boys
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Phone Number: 909.515.2490
Email address: kaboys@ncsu.edu
Office Hours: MW 1:15 – 2:30pm
and by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Meeting Dates: Weekly- M, W
Meeting Time: 10:15-11:30am
Meeting Location: Cox Hall, Room 214

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the exciting and dynamic field of International Trade. During the first part of the course we will introduce some of the most influential theories of international trade and use these insights to explain the patterns of trade. The second portion of the class will be devoted to international trade policy and trade instruments such as tariffs, quotas, and export subsidies. This discussion will be largely focused on economic forces which affect the international trade in agriculture, food, and natural resources. Data and analytical approaches used to evaluate international trade flows and policy impacts will be introduced.

Prerequisite: One of the following - ARE 201, EC 201, EC 205
Sophomore standing required.

LEARNING GOALS

Through this course you will be introduced to several major international trade theories, international trade policies, and data sources and quantitative methods used for empirical trade policy analysis. By the end of the semester you

- Be able to describe and apply the most influential trade theories to address topics beyond those covered in class.
- Be able to understand and apply fundamental empirical tools for analysis of international trade policy.
- Be able to apply the theoretical and empirical concepts addressed in class to concrete trade policy questions of interest to you (and future employers).

COURSE MATERIALS AND LEARNING RESOURCES

Course Text: Pugel, Thomas A. 2015. *International Economics – 16th Edition*. McGraw-Hill.

- Or *15th Edition*.

Reference Texts (Available on reserve at the Hill Library):

- Koo, Won W., and Kennedy, P. Lynn. 2005. *International Trade and Agriculture: Theories and Practice*. Wiley Blackwell.
- Reed, M. R. *International Traded of Agricultural Products*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Summary of course requirements and Key Dates:

Course Component	Notes	Weight in Final Grade
Mini-Exercises	Grades of the best 5 of 7 will be counted toward the final grade (2% each exercise).	10%
Assignments	There will be two major assignments: Assignment 1: February 1 (10%) Assignment 2: March 20 (10%)	20%
Term Paper	Term Project Brief: February 13 (2%) Presentation (due April 7 th) and Online Discussion: April 8-12 (10%) Final Paper: April 22 (13%)	25%
Exams	There will be two (2) exams: Mid-Exam: February 20 (15%) Final Exam: May 1 (20%)	35%
Participation & Professionalism	In-class participation	10%

MINI-EXERCISES

There will be several short exercises which are designed to provide you an opportunity to reflect on the relevance of podcasts, guest speakers, and experiences during class trips to current international trade and policy issues. These exercises which will be due throughout the semester during weeks when there is not another major course requirement or holiday (e.g. exams, assignment due dates, spring break). Details of the assignments will be posted on Moodle approximately 1 week in advance of the exercise due date. Exercises are due on Sunday evening (by 9pm); as they will be discussed during Monday classes, no late exercises will be accepted. I will, however, drop the two exercises with the lowest scores when calculating your final grade.

Due dates for mini-exercises:

Mini-Exercise	To be uploaded to Moodle by 9pm on the following dates:
1	January 13
2	January 20
3	January 27
4	February 10
5	February 3
6	March 24
7	March 31

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be two assignments are designed to help your comprehension of the material and provide a hand's on opportunity to work with international trade data. These assignments will also help you collect and present some of the information needed for your term project.

TERM PROJECT

Each student will write a research paper, on a topic of their choice which is related to the course material. The topic of the final paper can involve a given commodity (e.g world trade of potatoes, or tobacco), a given country or trade organization (i.e. external trade balance of Mexico, WTO), or a given trade agreement (e.g. TPP, NAFTA). As summary of these components of this assignment are provided below; additional information about the term project will be provided early in the semester.

Term Project Brief: A one-page extended abstract describing the topic that you propose to explore is due by February 13 (by noon). The abstract will be reviewed by the instructor to ensure the appropriateness of the proposed project (both topic and scope) for this assignment, and to ensure that the proposed topic is sufficiently different from another already taken topic. You are encouraged to submit this brief sooner so that you can ensure you are able to work on a topic which is of interest to you, and you can begin work on with assignment as soon as possible.

Term Project Presentations and Discussion: Term project presentations will be due on April 7th (by 9pm) and discussion about these presentations held through Moodle during the week of April 8-12th. You will record and post your presentation, and lead a discussion among a small group of your classmates (~6) about your topic during this week. In addition, it is expected that you will view and discuss the presentations of other students in your group during this week. Your grade for this course component will be comprised of both the quality of your term presentation, the quality and timelessness of the presentation you lead and your participation on the discussion of the presentations of the other students in your group.

A few notes:

- The feedback received during these discussions should be used as input into your final term paper.
- To permit enough time to view the presentations of your groupmates, and actively engage in these discussions, class will not be held during this week.

Term Paper: Term project is due on Monday April 22nd by noon.

EXAMS

Two exams will be held in this class: a mid-term (Feb. 20th) and a cumulative final exam (May 1st). If you complete but do poorly on the mid-term, but considerably better on the final ($\geq 10\%$ improvement), the mid-term will be re-weighted in your final exam calculation (will be worth 10% of final grade, and the final exam will be weighted at 25% of your final grade. This option is not available to those who do not take the mid-term exam.

Missed Exams: Make-up exams will not be given for unexcused absences. If you have no documentation for your absence, it will be unexcused and the exam will be scored a zero. Make-up exams will be given for excused absences. Excused absences are defined by NCSU under REG 02.20.03 – Attendance regulations. For a full statement of university policy see: <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03-attendance-regulations/>

PARTICIPATION & PROFESSIONALISM

Participation is essential to gaining the most from this course. For this reason, students are expected to contribute to daily class discussions and to provide feedback to their peers in a respectful and professional manner. Participation is more valued for comments that demonstrate depth of understanding of the topic, originality (not merely re-phrasing of what has been previously stated), and/or offer other relevant perspectives.

Participation Characteristics	Quality of Participation
<i>Quality</i> – provided useful insight thought that incorporated the course material and relevant observations. Questions to others and follow-up answers to questions were excellent and demonstrated competence in the topic.	
<i>Quantity</i> – showed good judgment in the number and length of comments.	High
<i>Timing</i> – participated during the scheduled class time and project meeting times (as established by the student groups).	
<i>Added Value</i> – provided new material or critical insight or demonstrated reflective through when necessary.	
Participation was good, but input was insufficient in two or three of the above areas	Average
Participation was not acceptable or insufficient and/or comments lacked in more than three of the above areas.	Low

In addition to verbal participation, throughout the semester you will also be periodically required to evaluate presentations and papers of your peers. Borderline situations regarding final course grades will depend heavily on participation.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

January 11	Last day to add classes
January 21	No class (MLK Day); University closed
February 20	Mid-Term Exam. Will be held during class.
March 4	Class Drop Deadline
March 5	VA Governor's Conference on Agricultural Trade ¹
March 11-15	Spring Break
March 22	Class Trip (Date tentative)
April 8-12	Term Presentations. Online; no classroom activities this week.
April 26	Final day of classes
May 1	Final exam (8:00-11:00am; 214 Cox Hall)

¹ An optional activity that will not be formally part of this class. Additional information about this event is here: <https://www.ag-forestry.virginia.gov/agtrade2019/home/>
Let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in learning more about this and possibly attending; we may be able to coordinate accommodations and transportation to this meeting.

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Classroom lectures will compliment material in the textbook and will help improve your understanding of the course material. In addition, there will be some material covered in lectures which is not included in the course textbook but which may be covered during the exams. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to connect with a classmate to get notes and find out any information you have missed. If you are ill or some other event prevents you from attending class for an extended period of time, please contact both me and your academic advisor.

Attendance will not be taken but I expect you to attend all classes. There is a strong correlation between learning and attendance, and learning and grades. As final grades are partially dependent upon in-class participation, grades for those who regularly miss class without prior notice or other reasonable explanation will be adversely affected. (It is very difficult to participate if you are not in attendance!) Decisions concerning borderline situations regarding final course grades will depend heavily on a student's attendance and participation.

You will not be dropped from the course just because you do not show up to class; if you quit attending but remain on the roster, you will receive a failing grade.

GRADING POLICY

Final grades will be assigned using the +/- grading scheme defined by NCSU's regulation REG 02.50.03. Details of this regulation are available here:

<http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/academicpoliciesandprocedures/courses/grading/>

Grade Disputes: Considerable care is taken to provide fair and useful feedback to students on all assignments. If you disagree with a grade on an exam, presentation or other assignment, written justification (not a note by email) shall be submitted to the instructor within one week of the received grade. Assigned grades will not be reconsidered after this time.

Requirements for Credit-Only (S/U) Grading: In order to receive of S, students are required to take all course components, and earn a grade C- or better. Conversion from letter grading to credit only (S/U) grading is subject to university deadlines. Refer to the Registration and Records calendar for deadlines related to grading. For more details, refer to <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-15/>

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND TERM PAPER COMPONENTS

All work is due at the time indicated on the assignment syllabus or discussed in class. The ability to meet course deadlines is a reflection of professionalism. Unless otherwise indicated, all take-home assignments are to be submitted on or before the beginning of class on the date due. ***Assignments, term project briefs, or term papers submitted late assignment will be penalized 5% of the total assignment value per day (including weekends). Late mini-exercise assignments will not be accepted late. Exams and term project presentations can not be made up unless the absence is excused.***

COMMUNICATION DEVICES

During class time all communication devices must be turned to silent mode. If you receive a call that you must respond to, you must take it outside the classroom. Cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices are strictly prohibited from being on your person during quizzes and exams. Violation of this policy may result in a grade of zero on the relevant assignment.

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability (learning disability, attention deficit disorder, psychological, physical, etc.), if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who is to request accommodations in class must register with capital disability services for students early in the semester at the Disability Resource Office:

Phone: 919.515.7653 Email: disability@ncsu.edu Web Site: <http://dso.dasa.ncsu.edu/>

RIGHT TO SYLLABUS CHANGE

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances and/or to ensure better student learning.

DISMISSAL POLICY

Students may leave if the instructor or a replacement has not arrived by 10:30am.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND MISCONDUCT

Although you must complete and turn in your own work, you are encouraged to work with others in completing and preparing assignments outside of class, as well as some activities during class time. Such collaboration is authorized in this class. Tests are the principal exception.

Be aware that it is my expressed expectation that your submission of any item for evaluation as part of your class grade means that you have neither given nor received unauthorized aid. This expectation is reflected in the NC State Honor Pledge.

Violations of Academic Integrity will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct; the consequences of misconduct can be serious. The Code of Student Conduct is available at: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01>

The course professor reserves the right to set any rule during class, presentations, or exams to pursue fairness for everyone involved. Individual student grades may be adversely affected for problems that continue after fair warning has been given.