IS THIS COURSE THE RIGHT ONE FOR YOU?

Have you ever wondered if globalization is as good or as bad as it is sometimes made out to be? Do you wonder if globalization is really a new phenomenon or just a new word for something that’s been going on a long time? Do you have wonder if labor immigration or outsourcing is good for your neighbors? Do you wonder if global engagement can improve the welfare of the millions of people who live in poverty? Are you interested in thinking about how you might study the trade, migration, or foreign investment on individual countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America or Eastern Europe? Are you looking for an approach to these questions that is based on economic reasoning and empirical methods?

If you answer “yes” to these questions, this course is for you. In it, we apply the tools of neoclassical economics to the study of global economic integration. Our study is guided by the theories economists have developed to understand why international flows of goods, services, labor, and capital occur and how we can evaluate their effect on income levels, income inequality, technology gaps, and other features of the economic landscape. We study the evolution of the 19th Century Atlantic economy as a case study in globalization and its effects. We apply similar methods to data we collect on globalizing developing countries. Throughout the course, we remain open to ideas, to inquiry, and to empirical assessment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Economics 665 is a one-semester course in international economics for master’s students, including those from Economics, International Relations, and Public Administration. The course is an introduction to global economic integration, and the policies and institutions that regulate
it. Its objective is to provide students with the ability to evaluate economic analysis of policies designed to restrict or enhance this integration. Students are introduced to the tools of international economic analysis and they apply these tools to the study of the globalization experiences of one developing country.

The prerequisite for Economics 665 is completion of or concurrent enrollment in masters-level microeconomics (such as ECN 601 or PPA 723). Although the course emphasizes the logic and method of economic modeling, it is necessarily taught with a minimum of mathematics. Students are expected to be able to read and interpret graphs and tables and to solve simple algebraic problems. More importantly, they are expected to be familiar with the logic and tools of standard neoclassical economic analysis.

Because the course focuses on both theory and application, we use a variety of approaches to teaching and learning. Technical material will be conveyed in standard lecture format, followed by case studies and class discussion of policy issues to which the theory may be applied. Students are required to complete a series of problem sets, designed to help them master the technical skills in the course. We apply these skills to an evaluation of individual developing country’s experiences with economic integration.

Success as a policy analyst or program manager is related to one's ability to think a problem through clearly, to obtain and analyze relevant data, and to express one's assessment of the problem and proposed solution both verbally and in writing. Increasingly, these skills must be merged with an understanding of the use of the Internet as a research and communication tool. With this observation in mind, each student also will present a PowerPoint briefing of his or her country study.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Examinations -- 50 percent of grade.
There are two sectional examinations, each of which accounts for 25 percent of the final grade. No make-ups will be given for exams unless a student experiences a medical or family emergency and notifies the professor before the exam is given. Student responsibilities during exams are clearly delineated in the SU Bulletin. Any form of cheating during exams will result in a grade of zero and forwarding to the Student Standards Committee.

Homework Problem Sets -- 20 percent of grade.
There are 4 homework problem sets. Homework assignments are due in class on the due date. Assignments handed in after the end of class will lose 10 percent of the grade, and continue to lose 10 percent for every 24 hours they are overdue. These assignments will be graded and returned promptly. They ensure that you are keeping up with the material.
Country Study and Class Briefing Project -- 20 percent of grade.
Students will work in pairs to prepare a research report on one developing country’s experience with an aspect of economic integration, such as liberalization of trade in goods, migration, foreign investment, etc. Students will prepare a professional PowerPoint briefing for presentation in class summarizing their findings.

Class Participation -- 10 percent of grade.
I will assess your contributions to general class discussion, both for quantity and quality. Quantity measures include class attendance and your willingness to ask questions and participate in class discussions. To be considered of high quality, your contributions must reflect knowledge of the facts, familiarity with the appropriate analytical material, and sensitivity to the discussion as a group effort. (e.g. Are you listening to others? Do you relate your comments to those that others have made?)

Compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Any student who needs special consideration because of disability should see me to arrange accommodation.

COURSE MATERIALS

There are two texts required for this course. There are also readings that are available on our class website. The assigned reading listed in the class schedule is required.

Textbooks: (Available at the Orange Bookstore.)


COURSE OUTLINE AND CLASS SCHEDULE

Please Note: HVB refers to the Van den Berg textbook. OW refers to the O’Rourke/Williamson. Papers followed by the word (WEBSITE) are available in pdf form on our class website.

January 17  Introduction to the Course
Reading: HVB Chapter 1: International Economics and the Global Economy

January 19  Measuring Flows in the Global Economy
Reading: HVB Chapter 2: The Open Economy

January 24  What is the Third Wave of Globalization?

January 26  Gains from Commodity Trade
Reading: HVB Chapter 3: The Gains from Trade: A General Equilibrium View

January 31  Why Nations Trade
Reading: HVB Chapter 2: Why Nations Trade: A Partial Equilibrium View

February 2, 7  Trade and Income Convergence
Reading: OW Chapters 2, 3, 4

February 9  Trade Liberalization and Poverty

February 14  Trade and Growth
Reading: HVB Chapter 5: International Trade and Economic Growth

February 16  Trade and Growth: More Evidence

February 21  Protectionism
Reading: HVB Chapter 6: Protectionism: How Countries Restrict Trade
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Political Economy of Trade Policy</td>
<td>Reading: HVB Chapter 7: Why Do Governments Restrict Trade?</td>
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<td>February 28</td>
<td>Globalization and its Discontents</td>
<td>Reading: OW Chapters 5 and 6</td>
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<td>March 2</td>
<td>EXAMINATION #1</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td>Trade Policy</td>
<td>Reading: HVB Chapter 8: Trade Policy: Past, Present and Future</td>
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<td>Reading: The WTO in Brief</td>
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<td>March 9</td>
<td>Discriminatory Trade Policies</td>
<td>Reading: HVB Chapter 9: Free Trade Areas and Antidumping Protection</td>
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<td>Audio Report: David and Goliath, This American Life, Episode 303, WBEZ Chicago, 12/02/05</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>International Capital Movements</td>
<td>Reading: HVB Chapter 10: The Economics of International Investment</td>
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<td>Reading: HVB Chapter 11: The Many Forms of International Investment</td>
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<td>March 30</td>
<td>International Capital Mobility and Convergence</td>
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Reading: OW Chapters 11 and 12

April 4  **Labor Migration**
Reading: HVB Chapter 15: The International Migration of People

Reading: HVB Chapter 16: Immigration Policy

Reading: Gordon Hanson, “Illegal Immigration from Mexico to the United States,” October 2005. (WEBSITE)

April 6, 11  **Labor Migration, Convergence, and Backlash**
Reading: OW Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10

April 13  **EXAMINATION #2**

April 18  **Country Briefings: Group 1 Countries**

April 20  **Country Briefings: Group 2 Countries**

April 25  **MayFest**

April 27  **Country Briefings: Group 3 Countries**

May 2  **Summing Up and Class Evaluations**
Reading: HVB Chapter 17: The Future Path of Globalization

Reading: OW Chapters 13 and 14