Course Description

Globalization and its consequences for the world economy have generated a significant amount of controversy in the past decade. In this seminar, we address the questions surrounding the globalization debate. What are the implications of globalization for less-skilled workers in industrialized countries? What are the implications for sweatshop laborers in the developing countries? Should identical labor standards be imposed across all countries? What role do multinational firms play in the context of globalization? Does economic integration imply higher growth for developing countries? Who will benefit from the harmonization of intellectual property rights across the globe? What are the causes and consequences of currency crises (the most recent ones being in Turkey and Argentina)? What role can international institutions like IMF and the World Bank play to stabilize the world economy? Is the world income distribution becoming more equal or less equal as a result of globalization?

The format of this course will be lecture, class discussion, and presentations by students. Course work will include homework assignments, one midterm and two papers. Since this is a seminar class your active participation in class is essential.

Prerequisites

Students taking this course must have completed the three core economic theory courses (Eco-41, Eco-42, and Eco-43) or obtain the permission of the instructor. It is acceptable if either Eco-41 or Eco-42 is concurrently taken

Books

- During the course of the term, articles from various sources will also be assigned

Grading Schedule

Your letter grades will be given according to the following schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 and above</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90.00 – 92.99</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.00 – 89.99</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.00 – 86.99</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.00 – 82.99</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.00 – 79.99</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73.00 – 76.99</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70.00 – 72.99</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>60.00 – 69.99</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>below 60.00</td>
<td>F</td>
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Grading

There will be one midterm examination and weekly homework assignments. There will also be two sets of written assignments. The first is a term paper that shows your own analysis on a certain topic, the second is a paper that critically evaluates the papers and presentations of other class members.

Midterm

One class before the presentations 20 % of course grade

Homework Sets

Weekly 20 % of course grade

Class Participation

Daily 20 % of course grade

Term Paper + Presentation

Deadlines below 22.5 + 10% of course grade
- polished outline and preliminary power point presentation due 7 days (one week) before the presentation by 4:00 pm
- first draft due one day (24 hours) before the presentation by 1:00 pm
- final draft due on Monday 11th week of the term by 4:00 pm
Note that both drafts will be considered when giving your term paper grade.

Critique Paper

due on Monday 11th week by 4:00 pm 7.5% of course grade

The deadlines are strict and non-negotiable. We will stick with earth time: a day is 24 hours. The deduction scheme outlined in the homework section below will apply for late submissions.

Midterm

The purpose of the midterm is to test your understanding of the course material and make sure that you keep up with the class. In the midterm there will be some questions that basically test your knowledge on the basics of the course and questions that attempt to challenge you by taking the basics one step further.

Midterm will include the material covered in class plus the material assigned from the textbook and other sources. Let me emphasize that the midterm will also include material assigned from articles and textbooks that are not covered during the class hours. The purpose of including such material is to cultivate your self-learning skills—as is stated in the college’s mission. A typical midterm consists of various types of questions: essay, numerical, graphical, and true/false. Answers must clearly show your work. I will deduct at least 1/2 of the attainable points if your answer is correct but not accompanied by sufficient explanation. It is your responsibility to finish your exam by the announced time. Students who seek exemption from this requirement because of a medical situation or else should inform me by no later than the end of the second week of the term.

Homework Sets

The homework sets serve two purposes. First, they help you grasp the basic course material. Secondly, they test your abilities to learn on your own and help you become life long learners. To satisfy these purposes there will be two sets of questions in the homework sets: questions that basically help you review the course material and questions that go beyond what is covered in class.

Each homework assignment must be submitted by the beginning of the class hour on the due date. If you turn in your homework one-day late (i.e. between the 0-24 hour period following the beginning of the class hour on the due date) your grade will be multiplied by 80%. If you submit two-days late, your grade will be multiplied by 60%. For each additional day there will be a 10% reduction in your grade. Only when calculating deductions, by “day” I mean business days; weekend days are not considered as days. We will stick with earth calendar. When you submit your homework you must indicate whether or not it meets the deadline. If it does not meet the deadline, you must explicitly state how late it is.
Answers to homework questions must be readable and well organized. Each answer must clearly show your work. I will deduct at least 1/2 of the attainable points if the answer is correct but not accompanied by sufficient explanation. You are free to work in groups on the homework assignments; however, your final copy must represent your own work. You can exchange ideas and hints with other students, but you are not permitted to copy all or part of another student’s homework. If you are working with a group of students you must indicate the name of the people you work with.

Homework assignments will probably take a significant amount of your time. Nevertheless, they may be very rewarding if you put in your own effort and use this opportunity to keep up with class and enhance your learning. Students who work on the homework assignments seriously are likely to do better in the exams. Of course, doing well in the homework sets does not guarantee doing better in the exams.

Attendance and Class Participation

The purpose of class participation is to maximize your in-class learning through active participation. This may take many forms: asking questions on the material (including the very basics), making comments on the models, bringing up real world examples and finally answering my questions. A stimulated and interested mind can absorb knowledge in a much more efficient way. Moreover, there are increasing returns to knowledge: “the more you know the more you can learn” Krugman.

You are responsible to come to class regularly and participate in class discussions. There is no attendance requirement for this class; however, your participation and involvement in class discussions will constitute 20% of your course grade. I expect you to study the previous class material before coming to class. In addition, you must read the new material from the textbook and assigned sources before each lecture. Finally, your contribution to student presentations—in terms of asking stimulating questions, making constructive suggestions and providing new insights—is an essential requirement.

Questions on Your Exam and Re-grading Policy

Inquiring further on answers: When your exam/homework sets are returned, you will also be given a detailed solution key. You can ask for further explanations of the solutions; however, such inquiries will be strictly handled during my office hours or by appointment. I do not answer questions related with solutions to exams during the class hours or breaks. There is a 24-hour grace period between the time your exams are returned and the time you can make any inquiries. This gives you a sufficient amount of time to go over your notes, textbook, and the answer key so that you can make an intelligent inquiry. In the context of the inquiry, I do not address comments of the following type: “the deduction on this answer should be less than the amount you deducted”; I just provide further explanations that will help you understand the solutions. If you pronounce a statement like the above that will be handled under a grade dispute.

Disputing a grade: To dispute a grade, you must submit a written request. I do not address any questions related with grading during class hours or breaks. The submission of the written request must be done within one week from the time your exams/homework sets are returned. Your written request must clearly explain why you think your score needs to be changed. In particular, the grade dispute document must be based on three sources: the answer key, lecture notes and textbook material.

If you submit a written request, your entire work will be re-graded. Moreover, disputing a grade means that you are disputing the existing grade scheme. Hence, the curve (if any), which is based on the existing grading scheme, may not be applicable. Consequently when you dispute a grade your grade may go up or down.

Disputing term paper/course grades: If you want to dispute these grades, you need to submit a written request which explicitly and extensively talks about why your grade needs to be changed. Note that meeting all deadlines and incorporating all my comments (from your point of view) do not necessarily
imply that you will receive and A or A-. It will certainly increase the likelihood of getting a better grade but does not guarantee it. My comments will be aimed at showing you ways in which you can improve your work hence this process does not necessarily imply an A or A-. Your baseline draft submitted and also the way you incorporate my comments also enter into grading considerations. Since it is illegal to give information about grades via e-mail (source: department chair’s e-mail), we will use regular mail for course/term paper grading disputes. Otherwise, I will be happy to handle your grading questions during the first week of the following term. Again, all communication will be in written form.

Class and Exam Manners

Students are not expected to talk among themselves during class hours. If excessive and disturbing conversation takes place, I reserve the right to invite the students outside of the classroom. If your cell phone rings I reserve the right to ask you take the call and speak with the caller. If you let me, I will be more than happy to talk with the caller. You can eat and drink during the class hours. If such a situation arises, I reserve the right to ask you to share your food with the rest of the students and the professor. You can sleep during class hours, so long as you remain quiet. If excessive snoring occurs, or if you persistently fall on somebody else’s shoulder or onto the desk, I reserve the right to wake you up.

During exams we will make special seating arrangements such that one seat remains empty between two students sitting next to each other. The rows must form a strictly straight line. Exchange of calculators, talking and whispering among yourselves are not permitted.

Notes

The amount of exams and homework assignments is sufficient to evaluate your performance in class; therefore, I will not accept any additional work aimed at improving your grade.

If you miss an exam or fail to meet a homework/paper deadline because of an extraordinary situation (e.g. a medical situation, family emergency etc.), you must be able to verify this through the Dean of Students in order to be eligible for a make up or to avoid the homework penalty. In other words, the appropriate information must be provided from the Dean of Students and not from you.

Students who require additional time during the exam must inform me about their situation no later than the first week of the term. The information must come to me via the Dean of students.

The course is designed to be difficult, challenging and time-consuming. Expect to spend at least 10 hours per week on average.

Each day’s lecture will be partitioned into two parts, and in between there will be a break. I will announce the length of the break before we adjourn. I expect everybody to show up on time in the second part of the class.
Preliminary Notes on Written Assignments

Term Paper

The primary purpose of the term paper is to increase your research abilities, as well as presentation and writing skills.

You can write your term paper on a topic of your own choice. The first requirement is that it has to be related to a global economic issue. The second requirement is that the topic must be of interest to you so that you can work on it enthusiastically for the rest of the term. There are no strict rules in terms of the content and scope of the paper. For instance, if you are theoretically oriented you can write a paper that explores the models on the effectiveness of government intervention in stabilizing the exchange rate. If you are business oriented, you may investigate how multinational companies adopt to the business environment in host countries. If you are empirically oriented, you can investigate the relationship between openness and growth using econometric techniques.

Your topic can be related to a subject that you studied earlier. In this case, you must submit your earlier papers along with your term paper. It is your responsibility to make sure that your term paper is substantially differentiated from your earlier papers.

I suggest that you start working on finding a topic right away. Please discuss your topic with me during the first two weeks of class. Each topic proposal needs my approval before you start working on it. By the second Thursday of the term each student must have a topic to work with.

Critical Report

In the critical report, every student is expected to write a report on each paper presented in class. Each report ideally should be 1 or 1.5 pages long and no longer than 2 pages. This report should give a short summary of the paper and outline the paper’s strong and weak points, it should also include some constructive comments and suggestions. The report should also include an evaluation of the presentation along the same lines. The report must include a grade for both paper and presentation on a scale of 1 to 100. I will consider your evaluations when giving out final grades. Let me emphasize that they will simply be considered as suggestive in nature. There is no specific way by which these evaluations are factored into your course grades. Note that critical reports will be written individually.

Course Outline (tentative)

  - Topic 1: International Trade, Outsourcing and Labor
  - Topic 2: European Unemployment
  - Topic 3: Finance and Economic Growth
  - Topic 4: Intellectual Property Rights in a North-South Context
  - Topic 5: International Finance: Currency crisis

A detailed set of reading lists will be distributed on a weekly basis.
Additional Requirements for Graduate Students

Students taking this course for graduate credit must write a 4 page essay on a global economic issue. The essay must be related with a current event and be in editorial opinion format. More specifically, the essay must identify a hotly debated current issue, discuss the existing theoretical and empirical work and then suggest implications for policy. The weight of the essay will be an additional 10%. Hence, the work of graduate students will be based on 110%.