ECONOMICS 362: TRADE POLICY & GLOBALIZATION

Time and Place:

- Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 3:30-4:20pm, WEB (Webster Hall) 103

Contact Information and Office Hours:

- Office: Saunders Hall 531  Phone: 808-956-7296  E-mail: baybars@hawaii.edu
- Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:15-2:15pm and by appointment

Course Objectives and Overview:

The main theme of this course is globalization with a focus on international trade. We start out by discussing the past and current trends in world trade; theoretical foundations of why and what nations trade and their welfare implications. We then introduce the political economy of trade policy and institutions of trade as well as examine trade agreements. Through readings and class discussions we cover current debates and controversies in trade-related globalization topics such as trade and the environment, trade and child labor, trade and poverty, trade and labor standards, trade and intellectual property, and so on.

Contemporary ethical issues are an integral part of the course material. First through lectures and class discussions, and then through reading/writing assignments and presentations we will learn to recognize and deliberate on ethical matters related to the challenges of globalization and world trade. We will improve critical thinking skills and use sound economic rationale to objectively analyze the ethical issues throughout the course. We will also develop and improve abilities to communicate ideas through well written, concise essays and effective oral presentations.

Focus Designation: Contemporary Ethical Issues (E), Writing Intensive (W).

Prerequisites: ECON 120, ECON 130, or ECON 131 (completed with at least a C.)

Required Books:


Recommended Textbook for Background in International Trade:

Assessment:

1) Writing Assignments: You will be assigned 4 writing assignments which are directly based on the required readings and lecture notes. It is imperative to turn in your assignments at the announced deadlines. The writing assignment grade will be reduced by 5 points (out of 10) if you hand it the next lecture after it is due and will receive no credit if it is two lectures late. The assignment with the lowest grade will be dropped but all assignments have to be turned in to take advantage of this. In order to earn a passing grade for the course and earn W focus credit, all writing assignments have to be adequately completed. (30% of the final grade)

2) Problem Set: You will be assigned one problem set comprising material from the first part of the course. These will be solely based on lectures. The grade for the problem sets will be reduced by 5 points for each lecture they are late. Each assignment is graded out of 10 points. (8% of the final grade)

3) Presentation: In the second half of the course, students will be required to make a 20 minute PowerPoint presentation on a topic of their liking related to globalization and trade policy. I will provide you with a sample list of topics to get you started but you are completely independent in your topic choice subject to my approval. More details will be provided in class. (20% of the final grade)

4) Take-Home Exams: The midterm and final exams are in a take-home writing intensive format. They will require you to critically analyze current questions using the material covered in lectures, class discussions, and reading assignments with an ethically informed perspective. (Midterm 15% and Final Exam 20% of the final grade)

5) Attendance and Participation: This is a class where discussion is a vital part of the learning process. To further encourage you to participate, you will be awarded 7% of your grade based on attendance and participation. Four unexcused absences will lead to a 0% attendance grade and each additional unexcused absence beyond four lectures will mark-down your overall grade by 1% each. This will especially be crucial in determining borderline grades.

Grading Summary:

1. Problem Set 8%
2. Reading Assignments 30%
3. Presentation 20%
4. Attendance and Participation 7%
5. Take-Home Midterm 15%
6. Take-Home Final 20%

Course Materials Online: Laulima

Here is a list of the things that you can find on https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal:

- A copy of the syllabus if you lose this
- Handouts on the material covered or to be covered in class
- Important announcements
- Assignments and their due dates
- Additional reading materials
- Final Take-Home Exam Grades

Thus, you should regularly check Laulima!
Office Hours:
You are encouraged to utilize my office time. Please do not hesitate to see me for any questions you have in the posted hours or by arranging an appointment with me if these hours do not work for you. I am here to help, not judge you so do not be afraid to ask questions at any point.

Academic Dishonesty:
I have absolutely zero tolerance against any sort of cheating, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty. I value fairness to all students and will seek the harshest disciplinary action in case the trust is broken. I may use an online monitoring service to check your written work. You will be asked to provide electronic copies of all your work—writing assignments, take-home exams, PowerPoint slides of presentations—by uploading to the relevant course “Dropbox” on Laulima.

Disability Services:
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili’uokalani Center for Student Services.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

I. INTRODUCTION
1. Introduction to Globalization
2. International Trade Overview
3. Ethics

II. INTERNATIONAL TRADE THEORY
4. Ricardian Model
5. Heckscher-Ohlin Model
6. Increasing Returns to Scale and Monopolistic Competition Model

III. INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY
7. Trade Restrictions: Tariffs
8. Nontariff Trade Barriers
9. Political Economy of Trade Policy
10. Multilateral Trade Agreements
11. Ethics and Trade Policy
12. Preferential Trade Agreements

IV. INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE MOVEMENTS
13. International Labor Mobility
14. Multinational Corporations and Outsourcing