

ECON 136, International Economics

Spring, 2012



- Class 20355 meets M/W 10:30-11:45, DMH 166.
- Class 25148 meets M/W 1:30-2:45, DMH 166.
- Instructor: Warren C. Gibson, PhD.
- Office: DMH 144 – but I am seldom there
- email: warren@gibson2.com – I check email often and usually respond promptly. Do *not* use any sjsu.edu email address for me. It won't work.
- Phone: none
- Office hours (tentative): Wed. 3:00-4:30 at Cafe Pomegranate (across the street from DMH). Other times M/W by appointment.
- Class web site www.gibson2.com/econ136

Course Description and Learning Objectives

International economic issues are very significant in today's interdependent world. We will start with gains from trade and proceed to international trade theory and policies including trade barriers, arguments for and against protectionism, and international trade agreements. We will then take up international financial and monetary issues including balance of payments, foreign exchange markets, international financial markets and monetary systems.

The over-arching objective of this course is to enhance your ability to practice *critical thinking*. This is a skill that will serve you well in all aspects of your professional and personal life.

Text

Sawyer and Sprinkle, "International Economics," 3rd. ed., Prentice Hall 2006, ISBN 978-0-13-605469-6. You will download other short required readings from the class web site.

Web site

Please bookmark the class web site, www.gibson2.com/econ136 and check it each weekend for updates.

Quizzes and exams

There will be a five-question quiz most Wednesdays. There is no makeup of missed quizzes but I will drop your two lowest quiz scores. Midterm exams will be given on Wed. Mar. 7 and Apr. 25 (dates subject to change) and a final exam after the last class.

Your grade

Quizzes	25%
Midterm exams	20% each
Final exam	35%

Cutoff scores for letter grades					
97%	A+	93%	A	0%	A-
87%	B+	83%	B	0%	B-
77%	C+	73%	C	0%	C-
67%	D+	63%	D	0%	D-

Homework

There will be occasional homework assignments that will help you clinch your understanding of key concepts and prepare for exams. I will not collect them or grade them.

Extra credit

There will be several ways to earn extra credit in this class. You can add 0.5% to your final grade for each Provocative Lecture that you attend. You can earn up to 1.0% by giving a short presentation to the class about some aspect of international economics that you are familiar with. I may add written extra credit opportunities as well. But no matter how much extra credit work you do, your extra credit will be capped at 1.5%.

Class participation

I value your participation in class discussions. If you are shy about speaking in a group, this is a great chance to learn this valuable skill. If you're overly talkative, this might be a good chance to learn to listen more. If your final course grade places you near a border line for letter grades, I may, based on your class participation, award you the higher grade.

Topics and reading assignments (subject to minor changes)

Dates	Topic	Reading	Notes
Jan. 25	Intro.	Ch. 1	micro "boot camp" in class
Jan. 30, Feb. 1	Gains from trade	Ch. 2, 3	thru p. 52
Feb. 6, 8	Comparative advantage, PPF	Ch. 3	skip appendix
Feb. 13, 15	Factor endowments and trade	Ch. 4	skip appendix
Feb. 20, 22	Int'l factor movements	Ch. 6	
Feb. 27, 29	Tariffs	Ch. 7	
Mar. 5, 7	Quotas and other trade distortions	Ch. 8	mid-term exam Mar. 7
Mar. 12, 14	Quotas and other trade distortions	Ch. 8	
Mar. 19, 21	Politics and trade	Ch. 9	
Mar. 26	Spring break		
Apr. 2, 4	Regional economic arrangements	Ch. 10	
Apr. 9, 11	Nat'l income accounting, balance of payments	Ch. 12	
Apr. 16, 18	Forex markets	Ch. 13, 14	mid-term exam Apr. 25
Apr. 23, 25	Money, interest rates, exchange rates	download	
Apr. 30, May 2	Macro policy and exchange rates	Ch. 18	
May 7, 9	Fixed exchange rates	Ch. 19	
May 14	Int'l monetary arrangements and the gold standard	Ch. 20	(time permitting)
May 21	Final exam		for 1:30 class, 7:15-9:30
May 23	Final exam		for 10:30 class, 12:15-2:30