THE GLOBAL ECONOMY
ECON 28B
SYLLABUS

Course Information:
Location: Gerstenzang 122
Recitation: Golding Judaica Center 110
Time: M W 5:00-6:20 pm
Recitation: Tu 6:30-8:20 pm
Office Hour: M W 4:00-5:00 pm
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COURSE SUMMARY

This course studies the causes and effects of international flows of goods, services, labor, and capital. We will look at how governments and international institutions such as the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund impact those flows through different policies and regulations in the areas of international trade and finance.

The course considers both the microeconomic and macroeconomic effects of international transactions. In the microeconomic portion of the course, we will consider a number of economic models of international trade in goods and services. We will use these models to predict the effects of free trade as well as the effects of government interventions that would either reduce (e.g., tariffs, quotas) or increase (e.g., export subsidies) the volume of trade. We will also discuss the causes and effects of international flows of labor (migration) and capital (investment).

In the macroeconomic portion of the course, we begin with the balance of payments accounts and what is meant by a balance of payments surplus or deficit. We then look at the factors that influence exchange rates, both in the short run and in the long run. We will discuss how a government, if it chooses, can hold its exchange rate fixed. We will also talk about the effects of international lending and recent financial crises associated with such lending.

Required Materials:
The required text for this class is Thomas A. Pugel, International Economics, 15 Edition (McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2011). Supplementary materials will be posted on the course website online on a topic-by-topic basis. You are also encouraged to keep up with international economic news by reading The New York Times, The Economist, the Financial Times, or listening to National Public Radio.

Grading:
15% Problem Sets
25% Midterm I  Sept 30th, in class
25% Midterm II  Nov 3rd, in recitation session
35% Final Exam  TBD

Class Policies:

- **Exams:** The topics and chapters covered on each of the exams will be posted online prior to each exam. The exams may include any material from class, textbook, homework, and course supplements. Sample practice questions will be posted online. The midterms will be given during the recitation period. The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar. Please note that **there will be no make-up exams.** If there is an emergency and/or you miss an exam, let me know immediately.

Exam dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. You will be informed about any date changes in advance.

- **Problem Sets:** Homework assignments and due dates will be posted online. Assignments should be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. You can work on the problem sets with other students. However, you are responsible for turning in your own work and the work should not simply be a copy of another student’s assignment. Please keep in mind that the problem sets are your best preparation for the exams, on which you’ll be asked to solve hard problems quickly, thoroughly, and independently. In computing your homework average, I drop the lowest score. This means you can skip one homework assignment without direct penalty.

“**Extra-credit**” assignments: Please note that I will not give any “extra-credit” assignments.

- **Attendance & Participation:** Class attendance is mandatory and participation is strongly encouraged.

- **Excused absences:** If there is an emergency in your family or you experience significant health problems during the semester, please contact your academic advisor and/or Dean. Your advisor will then inform me, along with your other professors. At an appropriate time, we will then determine what to do about the work you missed.

- **Devices:** No cell phone use is allowed during class. The use of other devises is limited to class-related activities (such as viewing the lecture slides, taking notes, or looking up materials related to the course). Please refrain from using your devices for email, texting, chatting, games, social media, or any other activities not related to class. Your class participation grade will be affected if you are found violating this rule.

- **Information dissemination:** Course information will be posted online. You are responsible for checking the course page frequently. Any significant changes to our schedule will be announced via email.

- **Contacting me:** The best way to contact me is via email. I check my email regularly. I am not reachable to students through phone/voicemail or social media.

- **Accommodations:** If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately. Please keep in mind that accommodations cannot be provided retroactively.
**Academic integrity:**

You are expected to be familiar with and to follow Brandeis University’s policies on academic integrity (see: http://www.brandeis.edu/svpse/academicintegrity/index.html). Brandeis University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Instances of alleged dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, lying, stealing, etc.) will be reported to the Office of Campus Life for referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University.

- **Course material from previous semesters** In order to protect learning experience and that of your classmates, you may not consult course materials from previous semesters of The Global Economics without permission.

**LECTURE OUTLINE**

Introduction and Course Organization ch. 1

1. The Theory of International Trade
   1.1 The Supply and Demand Model ch. 2
   1.2 Transportation Costs
   1.3 Comparative Advantage ch. 3 & pp. 49-62
   1.4 The Heckscher-Ohlin Model and Extensions pp. 62-64 & ch. 5
   1.5 New Trade Theory ch. 6
   1.6 Trade and Economic Development ch. 7
   1.7 The Future of Trade and the Effects of Globalization

   **9/30: First exam on the material covered to this point, in class**

2. Trade Policy
   2.1 Tariffs ch. 8
   2.2 Nontariff Barriers to Trade ch. 9
   2.3 Arguments For and Against Trade Protection ch. 10
   2.4 Dumping and Export Subsidies ch. 11
   2.5 Trade Blocs pp. 259-274
   2.6 Trade Sanctions (time permitting) pp. 274-279

   **11/03: Second exam on material since Exam I, in recitation period**

3. International Factor Movements
   3.1 Capital and Technology Flows pp. 343-363, 513-516
   3.2 Migration pp. 363-374

4. Understanding Foreign Exchange
   4.1 The Balance of Payments ch. 16 & Appendix E
   4.2 The Foreign Exchange Market ch. 17
   4.3 What Determines Exchange Rates? chs. 18 & 19
   4.4 Government Policies toward the Forex Market ch. 20 & pp. 652-660
   4.5 International Lending and Financial Crises ch. 21

   **TBD: Final exam on material since Exam II**