

## E303: SURVEY OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Spring 2008

Section 19966

10:30 – 11:45 TR

LD020

Instructor: Brian Swart  
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Class Website: <https://oncourse.iu.edu/portal>

**TEXTBOOK:** Hendrik van den Berg, *International Economics*. Supplemental readings will be posted on Oncourse

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course offers you the opportunity to broaden your understanding of the international economy. The first part of the course will focus on the fundamental topics in **international trade**, such as why and how countries trade with each other, whether they benefit from free trade, and how policymakers influence trade flows. The second part of the course will explore various themes in **international finance**, such as balance of payments, exchange rate regimes, and the effects of monetary policies on financial transactions and output. Contemporary issues concerning economic integration in North America and Europe, export-oriented growth in East Asia, and trade policy reform in Latin America will also be discussed

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:** Your final grade will be based on the following components:

1. Assignments (15%)
2. Project (20%)
3. 2 Midterm Exams (20% each)
4. Final Exam (25%)

**PROJECT:** This is a group assignment which requires you to combine knowledge and tools acquired in this course with outside research and your own thoughts to answer a well-defined question. This project consists of 2 components: (i) a **report**, and (ii) a **presentation**. The report should be 3-5 pages and should highlight your research question, relevant theory or evidence, and your main conclusions. The presentation will be about 12-15 minutes in length. I will provide a list of possible topics for the project, but if you have a particular topic in mind, you are more than welcome to discuss it with me. I will distribute a guideline in class.

**EXAMS:** There will be two midterm exams (**February 14** and **March 27**) and a final exam (**April 29**). The final exam can not be rescheduled. If you miss a midterm due to a documented medical emergency, the weight of your final may be increased to take account of the lost credit. There are no makeup exams. The final exam is mandatory. Failure to take it will result in an automatic “F”, regardless of prior performance in the course.

**GRADES** will be assigned by the following schedule:

<b>A+</b> 97-100%	<b>B+</b> 87-89%	<b>C+</b> 77-79%	<b>D+</b> 67-69%	
<b>A</b> 93-96%	<b>B</b> 83-86%	<b>C</b> 73-76%	<b>D</b> 63-66%	<b>F</b> below 60%
<b>A-</b> 90-92%	<b>B-</b> 80-82%	<b>C-</b> 70-72%	<b>D-</b> 60-62%	

There are 500 total points in this course for you to earn. If the average score (calculated by some combination of the mean and median) on an exam fall below 71, all scores will be scaled up so that the 'scaled average' is 71 (which is not the same as a curve). Note that scores above 100 are possible. Weighted averages are rounded to the nearest integer when calculating letter grades, e.g. 76.49 = 76 and 76.50 = 77.

Throughout the course I will be concerned about your progress in learning the economic way of thinking. If at any time, you would like more feedback about your understanding of the material or if you have anything else to discuss, please see me.

I believe that, through sufficient effort, just about anyone should be able to pass this course. I have observed that effort and reward are positively correlated when students set out to learn economics. Please understand, however, that I am not able to measure or reward effort alone. As in most things in life, how hard you work in learning economics is of secondary importance to the quality of what you produce. Regular and sustained effort is usually necessary, but not sufficient, to do well. If you are working hard and not doing well, please see me. And the sooner the better.

Grades are based on work done January 8-April 29. Pleas for special consideration, especially after the final exam, are distasteful and disrespectful of the academic process. They are also completely ineffective.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** There is no extra credit offered for this course. Please do not ask; the answer will be—NO.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT** will be met with a score of zero on the assignment and probably a grade of F for the course. The Dean of Students will be notified for further action, which could include dismissal for the University. Please refer to the Code of Student Ethics if you are uncertain about what constitutes academic misconduct.

Common courtesy and standards of professional conduct dictate that you be respectful and attentive in class. Disruptive students will be asked to leave the room and may be dealt with as an act of misconduct according to university policy. Arriving late and leaving early can impede the learning of others and therefore strongly discouraged. Please notify me if you must leave early and seat yourself so that your exit is unobtrusive as possible.

**WITHDRAWAL** from this course with an automatic W is possible until **Friday, February 29**. To qualify for the grade of W after this date, a student must be passing the course at date of withdrawal. If the student is failing, the grade recorded on the date of withdrawal will be F. Similarly, the grade of 'I' (Incomplete) is awarded only for extreme circumstances, such as a documented medical problem of extended duration.