Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
College of Business  
Course Syllabus – Fall 2013

Course Number: ECON 3315 – W: 7:00-9:30pm OCNR115

Course Name: International Economic Issues

Instructor: Patrick Crowley

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Office Hours: TBA OCNR-373 or by appointment

Internet: Economics Website: http://economics.cob.tamucc.edu  
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Course Homepage: http://www.patrickmcrowley.com  
Blog: http://patrickmcrowley.blogspot.com  
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Required materials: The Economist magazine.

Optional Materials: Other business newspapers and magazines such as Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, Business Week, and Fortune.

Prerequisites: ECON2301 or ECON2302

Instructional Methodology: The class will be interactive. A variety of learning methodologies will be used, such as: lecture, class discussions and activities, assignments and media presentations.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog description

This course evaluates and analyzes various contemporary issues in international economics, using elementary economic theory and recent economic and financial data. The course includes issues such as economic integration, regionalization and globalization, international trade issues, the structure and role of international economic organizations, the foreign exchange market, and economic issues in developing countries.

Course objective

The objective of the course is to introduce students to a series of contemporary international economic issues that affect the world economy and the wellbeing of its citizens. The course incorporates political economy, ethical and business themes and perspectives, but the list of topics to be chosen emphasizes those problems which are of most interest for economic development and the understanding of the evolution of the global economy. The course will include issues that concern both developed and developing countries, Western and post-Communist countries and small and large countries. In all cases economics will be used to analyze these issues and draw implications from the questions that these issues raise.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, the students will able to:

1. To deal in detail with a selection of international topics of the day, so that students have some knowledge about current international economic issues;
2. To have a basic knowledge of the theoretical underpinnings of international economics;
3. To understand the international nature of many economic issues (policies, environment, political stability);
4. To communicate that many international issues have an economic dimension which is rarely mentioned in the media; and
5. To present material organized by students in groups in a topical manner to an audience.

Relationship to Other Coursework

This course is designed specifically for those students who have completed their principles of economics courses and are interested in learning more about the global issues and the international environment in which consumers and business firms operate.
COURSE ARRANGMENTS AND EVALUATION

How the course will operate

Readings will be assigned for each class. For each topic, I would like groups of two or three students to present on some aspect of the topic at a pre-arranged place in the class. Students that are to present must discuss the scope and content of their presentation beforehand with the instructor (see below).

Evaluation

There are 4 components in your evaluation. These are:

**Attendance** - 10 percent of the final grade
You are expected to attend and participate in all the classes. This means that you do need to do all the assigned reading and get hold of notes if you happen to miss a class. There will be a regular attendance register taken in class. You are allowed to miss one class without penalty, but beyond that, penalties will result (unless for unavoidable medical reasons or an official excuse).

**Written assignments** – 10 percent of the final grade
2 written assignments, both worth 5% of the final grade, with one to be graded externally. The first assignment will relate to international trade and the second assignment will relate to institutional features of macroeconomic development.

**Presentation** - 25 percent of the final grade
You are required to do a joint presentation on one of the international economic issues that will be covered in the course. You can either present one of the readings in more depth (by updating the subject matter or by consulting some of the references in the readings) or you can present on a subject connected with something that has been taught in class. If you do the former, you should present in the same week as when the material is taught, but if the latter, it can be presented at any point in the semester. Please let me know your groupings by the end of the second week of semester (September 13th), and we will start the presentations the week of September 23rd. Please consult with me beforehand about the format, length and content of your presentation by the day before you are due to present. If you do not come and see me beforehand (as a team), your will automatically suffer a 15% point deduction.

**Country profile and scrapbook** - 25 percent of final grade
A country profile and scrapbook (double spaced entries, between regular 10 and
12 point font, regular margins) about a specific country and the major events that take place in a country over the semester and in the recent past. To do this, you should be clipping articles from the Economist magazine or any other reputable source and using these in your scrapbook. The country profile and scrapbook should be illustrative and should, by whatever means you can employ, demonstrate what is happening in your chosen country and how events in the world economy have impacted this country during the course of the year so far.

**Exam - 30 percent of final grade**
One 120 minute hand-written (take-home-sit-down) exam will be held in class on December 4th, 2013. This exam is compulsory for all students, and no makeup exam will be permitted. The exam will consist of some short answer questions and some essay questions. More details on format and content will be announced at a later date.

**Presentations**

Presentations will be on the issues detailed below in the course outline, or on issues related to those detailed in the course outline. The presentations will be preferably made in groups of two (minimum) or three students (maximum). Each member of the group should present for around 10 minutes. The total presentations should last around 20 minutes, and should be no longer than 25 minutes (excluding questions).

Half of the mark for the presentations will be done by peer-evaluation, the other half will be professorially evaluated. At the end of the semester the student evaluations will be scaled so that the average peer-evaluation is equal to the professorial evaluation average. Attendance will also be automatically be taken by your evaluation form after each presentation. A sample evaluation form will be circulated.

The issues listed below are very broad, so you should pick one or a few tightly defined aspects of whichever issue you choose and focus on these aspects in your presentation. Please feel free to come and talk to me about your presentations, and in any case you must come and see me by the day before your presentation to show/tell me what you are going to present on. If you cannot make my office hours, please make an appointment in advance to see me.

The first presentation slot will be on September 25th and the last slot is on November 20th.
Country profile and scrapbook

Students are encouraged to pick a country and follow the news relating to that country during the course of the semester. The country you choose should either be a developed country or a “noteworthy” developing country. As part of the course, you are required to read the weekly magazine “The Economist” which is available through a specially-discounted student subscription, available from me. If you cannot afford this periodical, it is available to students in the library. The profile and scrapbook will be due on Friday November 22nd. NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED.

Other sources of information for the country report are the Financial Times of London (which our library subscribes to), the Wall Street Journal, and the New York Times. If in doubt about the reliability of information you find, please ask me.

OTHER ITEMS

Oral and Written Communication Content:
Given the interactive nature of this class, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their verbal communication skills. Oral presentations will enhance such an opportunity. Discussion questions in exams and written article review will serve the same purpose in regards to written communications skills.

Technology Applications:
All written materials are to be computer generated. Supporting materials such as graphs, charts, etc. are generated using software.

Ethical Perspectives:
Within the context of the market mechanism the ethical dimensions of different outcomes of business decisions implemented by institutions of different countries will be discussed from the perspective of the “ethics of the marketplace” as well as from other points of view. The effects of the various economic polices will likewise be analyzed.

Global Perspectives:
The course deals with economic issues of different countries and the global economy. Most discussions will be impossible without any coverage of the global perspective.

Demographic Diversity Perspectives:
Some of the global issues discussed in this course concern diversity of the global population in terms of income, work ethics, government policies and different cultures.

Political, Social, Legal, Regulatory and Environmental Perspectives:
The political, institutional and social dimensions are pervasive in discussions of economic policy and economic performance of different countries.

**Academic Honesty:**
This course, and all other courses offered by the College of Business (COB), requires all of its students to abide by the COB Student Code of Ethics (available online at [www.cob.tamucc.edu](http://www.cob.tamucc.edu)). Provisions and stipulations in the code are applicable to all students taking College of Business courses regardless of whether or not they are pursuing a degree awarded by the COB.

**Attendance Policy:**
Students are held responsible for class attendance. Class attendance is a necessary but not sufficient condition for active class participation and will contribute towards satisfactory course performance. Students absent from classes, for whatever reason, are responsible for making arrangements to submit assignments due, material discussed, and announcements made in class. Assignments missed due to absences cannot be made up except for illness or other emergencies, in which case a doctor’s note or other official University documentation is required to accompany the assignment. Any absences for reasons of sports participation should be brought to the attention of the instructor at the beginning of semester, and these students should inform the instructor of any further excusable absences as soon as the student is aware of them.

**Classroom Etiquette:**
Examples of classroom misconduct that may affect student evaluation include: habitually entering or leaving the classroom during class time without the consent of the instructor, using any telecommunication device in class, talking or chit-chatting with other students, and any other activities that are disruptive to the learning environment. Students caught engaging in such activities should expect class or course dismissal along with a letter of reprimand placed in their academic files. Please turn off or mute your cellphone when in class! Laptops can be used in class, but be aware that research shows that students that use laptops, ceteris paribus, tend to get lower grades.
Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statue that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825 – 5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Office hours:
Office hours will start on September 9th and will continue to December 4th. Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any questions or course-related items to discuss.
# COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction/Review of basics</td>
<td>9/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to the World Economy</td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Draft Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free trade and comparative advantage</td>
<td></td>
<td>Handout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written assignment #1 set</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Protectionism</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Readings 1-3</td>
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<td>GATT and the WTO</td>
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<td>Handout</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Written assignment #1 due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade, the environment and outsourcing</td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>Readings 4, 6 &amp; 7</td>
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<td>Immigration</td>
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<td>Readings 12, 13 &amp; 26</td>
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<td>Preferential trading areas: NAFTA and the EU</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>Reading 9, handout</td>
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<td>Agricultural issues, the CAP and Doha</td>
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<td>Reading 14, handouts</td>
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<td>Oil</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>Handout</td>
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<td>Globalization</td>
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<td>Readings 15 &amp; 16</td>
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<td>Development and foreign aid</td>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>Readings 32 &amp; 33</td>
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<td>Balance of Payments</td>
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<td>Readings 17, 18 &amp; 19</td>
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<td>The forex market</td>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>Reading 25</td>
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<td>Determination of exchange rates</td>
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<td>Handout</td>
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<tr>
<td>To fix or float?</td>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>Readings 21, 22, &amp; 23</td>
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<td>Dollarization and currency boards</td>
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<td>Reading 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exchange rates and the macroeconomy</td>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>Reading 20</td>
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<td>The IMF</td>
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<td>Reading 30</td>
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<td>Financial crises</td>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>Readings 27, 28 and 31</td>
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<td>FDI</td>
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<td>Readings 10 &amp; 29</td>
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<td>International business cycles</td>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>Handout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional economics and development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written exercise #2 set</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catch up class and review</td>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>Scrapbook due</td>
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<td>Written exercise #2 due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (in class)</td>
<td>12/4</td>
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Sample Student Presentation Assessment Sheet

Name of Presenting Student: __________________________________

Instructions: This sheet will be kept confidential, so please do not write your name or student ID anywhere on this sheet. It will be made available to the student so please be honest in any criticism. Please complete the form then return to the Professor. Thanks.

You can EITHER i) give a mark for the overall presentation (out of 10 - >9 = A, > 8 = B, and so on). If you wish to do this go to #6. OR ii) complete the following evaluation form.

1. Organisation (your weighting for organisation is ________%)
   How well was the presentation organised? Did you get a sense of a logical presentation of the material coming through?
   Mark = ________(out of 10)

2. Clarity (your weighting for clarity is ________%)
   How clearly was the material presented? Did you understand all the material that was presented, and how it fitted into the overall framework?
   Mark = ________(out of 10)

3. Delivery (your weighting for delivery is ________%)
   How did you rate the style of the presenter? Could you hear the presenter properly? Did the presenter speak in sentences? How focused was the presenter on his/her audience?
   Mark = ________(out of 10)

4. Content (your weighting for content is ________%)
   Did you learn anything that you didn't already know from the presentation? Was the presentation well researched?
   Mark = ________(out of 10)

5. Overall Impression (your weighting for overall impression is ________%)
   What was your overall general impression of the presenter? Did you like his/her style? Did they hold your attention? Did they respond to questions well? How adequately did they answer questions?
   Mark = ________(out of 10)

6. General Comments

7. Total Mark (weight*mark, ensuring weights add up to 1.00)
   Mark = ________(out of 10)

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