



## **Dillard College of Business Administration**

### **Syllabus: International Economics and Finance**

ECON 4643 Section X30

Summer I 2025

### **Contact Information:**

Instructor: Dr. Pablo A. Garcia-Fuentes

Office: Dillard Building 292

Online Office Hours: if you need help, please send me an email to arrange a Zoom meeting at [ZoomMeeting](#), or we can do email discussion.

Email: [pablo.fuentes@msutexas.edu](mailto:pablo.fuentes@msutexas.edu)

### **Instructor self-introduction**

Dr. Garcia-Fuentes is a native of Nicaragua, Central America. He received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Louisiana State University in 2009, his M.S. in agricultural economics from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1997, and his B.S. in agronomy from the Universidad Nacional Agraria, Nicaragua in 1992. He taught economic courses from 2010-2012 at Southeastern State University in Hammond, LA. He taught a graduate course in international agricultural trade in the spring 2013 at LSU. He has been teaching economic courses at Midwestern State University since the fall 2014. He represents the college of business on the EURECA committee and is the sponsor of the Financial Management Association. He has mentored several EURECA research projects and has been organizing the DCOBA forecast competition. He has been conducting research on issues of economic growth and development, exchange rate, price analysis, remittances, and foreign direct investment. He is pleased to be your instructor of intermediate microeconomics and thanks you for taking this class.

### **Text:**

Krugman, Paul, M. Obstfeld, and M. Metlitz. 2022. *International Economics: Theory and Policy*. 12th ed. New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc. (*Required*). You may purchase the book at the MSU bookstore, at the Pearson website, or at any other online website that you prefer. However, Mylab gives you access to the e-Text.

### **Required Registration:**

Students are required to sign up for MyLabEconomics at [MyLabEconomics](#) to complete the chapter assignments. Please download the registration instructions that are posted on D2L. To create your

mylab account, select “Get temporary access without payment”. Your account will be changed to a permanent one later, and your MSU account will be charged. In addition, because this course is part of the Courseware Access and Affordability Program, please see the information on this program on the last page of the syllabus. If you do not want to participate in this program, contact the MSU bookstore asap (please see the information on the last page of the syllabus).

### **Copyright:**

The class materials associated with this course are provided to facilitate student learning and are protected by the United States copyright laws. Dissemination or sale of the class material (including the World Wide Web) is not permitted. The class materials are only available to students enrolled in the course that requires the use of the corresponding textbook. Students should abide by these restrictions. The publisher of the textbook owns the copyright for the class materials associated with this course.

### **Course Description:**

This course gives students a comprehensive introduction to international economics and finance. The first half of the course focuses on international trade theory and policy. This includes comparative advantage and the basis for trade, trade models, the international location of production, and the role of firms in the global economy. The second half of the course focuses on international finance issues. This includes issues of balance of payments, exchange rates, money, interest rates, price levels and output.

### **Course Prerequisites:**

Junior standing or above or consent of the chair, ECON 2333 and ECON 2433.

### **Learning Goals:**

The general objective of this course is to help students understand international economics theory and policy as well as their relations to international business.

#### **A. General Learning Goal:**

1. Critical thinking and problem solving. The students will demonstrate their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities by analyzing issues of international trade theory and policy as well as of exchange rate and open-economy macroeconomics when solving problems in the homework, quizzes, and examinations, or when engaging in class discussions.
2. Communication skills. The students will demonstrate their abilities in effectively communicating their analyses of issues that are related to the applications of trade theory and policies and of exchange rate and open-economy macroeconomics.
3. Ethical decision makers. The students will demonstrate their ethical reasoning skills when analyzing applications of international trade theory and policy as well as of exchange rate

and open-economy macroeconomics to cases that are related to national and global economic issues.

4. Globalization and international business. The students will demonstrate their ability in understanding issues of globalization, economic integration, and international business. This includes the importance of global markets, open international markets, development and globalization, economic integration, and multinational enterprises.

These general learning goals represent or are related to those established by the Dillard College of Business Administration. The learning goals represent the skills that graduates will carry with them into their careers. While assessing student performance in obtaining these general learning goals, the College seeks to assess its programs. The assessments will assist us to improve our curriculum and curriculum delivery.

### **B. Course Specific Learning Goals:**

- Learn about comparative advantage, the basis of trade, and trade models,
- Learn about international trade policies,
- Understand economies of scale and international location of production.
- Learn about open-economy macroeconomics,
- Learn about the balance of payments,
- Learn about balance of payments adjustments, and
- Learn about exchange rate determination and its relation to the macroeconomy.

### **Teaching Method:**

Given that this is an online course, the course starts on 06/02/2025 and ends on 07/03/2023 as stated in the 2024-25 academic calendar. Students must read and review the assigned class materials as shown in the course outline below. In addition, students must submit assignments on MyLabEconomics by the due date. Class notes for each chapter and related class materials will be posted on D2L. Students can ask questions on any point that is not understood. The instructor has academic freedom to bring in class material and technology in his own way. In this class, you will use the internet to access the class material posted on D2L and to do assignments on MyLabEconomics. D2L will also be used for posting announcements and scores, and perhaps bonuses.

### **Course Policies:**

#### **A. Attendance Policy:**

Attendance will be checked based on assignment submissions. Students are expected to submit all assignments (attend all scheduled classes) for this course given the university attendance policy. Missing two-chapter assignments is considered excessive by the instructor. Therefore, students who reach this level of missed assignments will be dropped from the class by the instructor with a grade of "F", given the university attendance policy, as shown in the Student Handbook and Activities Calendar which may be found at [Handbook](#).

## **B. Other Related Policies**

### **Academic Integrity:**

Regarding academic honesty, students are referred to the “Student Honor Creed” (See Student Handbook).

### **Exam Policies:**

Exam policies are related to academic integrity and can also be stated on the first page of the test.

### **Americans with Disability Act:**

This class follows the guidelines suggested by the Center for Counseling and Disabilities Services for those students who qualify for disability services. Please notify the instructor of your special needs during the first week of classes (See the section on “Disability Support Services” in the Student Handbook).

### **Syllabus Change Policy:**

- This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change.

### **Correspondence:**

All correspondence regarding class issues must be conducted by email using your Midwestern State University (MSU) email only. I will not return answers to questions to other email accounts. Grades will be posted on D2L and on MSU Banner. I will not discuss grades or class standing over the phone or by emails. Since email is often the most convenient means of communication, it is recommended that students use and regularly monitor their MSU email account. Grades will not be transmitted electronically (e.g., emails).

*Please link your D2L email with your MSU email, so the messages sent through D2L will be delivered to your MSU email.* To do this,

- Log in to D2L.
- Click on your name on the right upper corner of the screen.
- Click on “account settings”.
- Click on “email”.
- Check “Forwarding incoming messages to an alternate email account” and enter your email in the box.
- Click on “save and close”.

**Netiquette: Communication Courtesy Code:**

Students are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, class discussions, lecture hall posts, chats, etc. If I consider any of them to be inappropriate or offensive, I will forward the message to the Chair of the department and the online administrators and appropriate actions will be taken.

**Deadlines:**

We cannot totally rely on cyberspace—emails get lost and servers disconnect temporarily. Do not wait for the last hour to do your homework. Reply and check for replies on every email sent and received. The student is responsible for checking deadlines on D2L and on Mylabeconomics for submitting the work to the instructor on time. Because MSU is in the Central Time Zone, the deadlines are Central Time deadlines. I will not reply to emails regarding homework issues during the last 7 hours prior to the deadline.

**Proctoring of exams**

Because this class requires online proctoring such as ProctorU or similar software, students will be required to pay the proctoring fees when taking the exams. In addition, because this is an online course, students are required to have a webcam.

**Exams, Coursework and Grades**

Exams: During the semester, there will be two midterm exams (150 points each) and a comprehensive final exam (200 points). The three-exam scores will be 500 points. Every student will be required to take the final exam. The exams' structure can include definitions, problems, short essays, and multiple-choice questions, or the exams can be take-home exams. You will need a calculator to solve some of the problems in the exams, so you are required to get a TI-30X IIS calculator. It is the only model accepted to work on the exams.

If you miss an exam without prior approval from the instructor, please do not expect a make-up exam. With prior approval you may take a make-up exam during the week of finals if you wish. If you anticipate a valid reason for missing an exam, please inform the instructor in advance by email. An unexcused absence from an exam will result in a score of zero on that exam and may be compensated for by counting your final exam in its place with my approval, and a 20% penalty on that exam's score will be assessed. The exam dates are noted in the Tentative Course Schedule in this syllabus. The instructor can change the exam dates if it is necessary. Any changes to those dates will be announced as soon as possible and posted prominently on D2L.

Homework and Quizzes: There will be 13 homework and quizzes corresponding to each of the chapters that we will cover during the semester. The assignments will be completed on MyLabEconomics website. There will be no make-up assignments under any circumstances. The student is responsible for having an appropriate internet connection. The student is responsible for submitting each assignment by the deadline set on Mylab. The student will have an adequate amount of time for each assignment, and you must not fall behind. Late submissions will receive

a 50% penalty. The homework and quizzes score will be 260 points.

Case study: Students are required to write a case study. The case study guidelines and policies are posted on D2L.

Grades will not be transmitted electronically (e.g., emails). Grades will be posted on D2L and on MSU Banner.

### **Course Grade:**

Course work	NA	Grade Scale	Percentages*	NA
Case study	40pts	720 to 800 pts	90% and above	A
13 Problems and applications (HW)	130 pts	640 to 719 pts	80% to 89%	B
13 Quizzes (Q)	130 pts	560 to 639 pts	70% to 79%	C
2 Mid-term Exam Scores**	300 pts	480 to 559 pts	60% to 69%	D
Final Exam Score	200 pts	below 480 pts	below 60%	F
Total	800 pts	NA	NA	NA

Notes: \* Percentages are only given for relative levels. Your final score is a total of all your exam, quiz, and homework scores with any bonus points added separately. Therefore 89% is not 1 point short of an A. 89% is only 712 points which is 8 points short of an A. \*\* Each midterm exam is 150 points.

### **Senate Bill 11**

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at [campus handgun policy](#).

## Outline of the course

ECON4643-X30

Summer I 2025

(Subject to some changes and additional readings)

Week and dates	Chapter	Topic
Week 1 (Jun 2, 8)	3, 4, 5	Syllabus; Labor productivity and comparative advantage; Specific factors and income distribution; Resources and trade
Week 2 (Jun 9, 15)	6, 7, 8	The standard trade model; External economies; Firms and the global economy
Exam 1	3, 4, 5, 6	Wednesday, June 11, 2025
Week 3 (Jun 16, 22)	9, 13, 14	Trade policy; National income accounting; Exchange rate and foreign exchange market
Exam 2	7, 8, 9, 13	Thursday, June 19, 2025
June 18	NA	Last day for “W”. Deadline at 4:00pm. Drops after this deadline receive an “F”
Week 4 (Jun 23, Jul 29)	15, 16, 17	Money, interest rates and exchange rates; Price levels and exchange rate in the long run; Output and exchange rate in the short run.
Week 5 (Jun 30, Jul 3)	18	Output and exchange rate in the short run; Fixed exchange rates and foreign exchange intervention
Final Exam	NA	Wednesday, Jul 3, 2025

Note: The instructor can change the exam dates if it is necessary.

## Follett Access Communication Points

To: Students enrolled in Econ 4643 x30

From: Dr. Pablo Garcia Fuentes

Re: MSU Texas Access & Affordability Program

Mustangs,

ECON 4643 is included in the above program for the SI semester. What does this mean?

- Your course material is in D2L on the first day of class, for everyone in your class. Your professor has opted to have this course in the program to save you time and money.
- The money saving charge of \$120+ tax has been added to your student account, which is below the publisher’s website price.
- You have the choice to “opt out” of this special pricing and find your material on your own. If you prefer to “opt out”, please see below. The last day to “opt out” of this content is 06/16/2025.
- How Do I Opt Out?
- Access Opt-Out Customer Portal Process – Student Experience
- Inclusive Access Program delivers all required course materials to students for any of the courses participating in the program on or before the first day of class, with the cost of those materials being added as a course charge on your student account

with the university or college. You can opt out of this program and acquire the required course materials on your own if you choose to.

- **Emailed Opt-Out Portal Link Process.** You will receive an email from [noreply@follett.com](mailto:noreply@follett.com). This email will provide you with directions and a link to the Opt-Out Portal. This email will be sent to your my.msutexas.edu email address. Please check your junk or Spam filters for this email.

If you “opt out”, you lose your course material. If you “opt out” by mistake, please contact the bookstore at the email address below and you will be “re-instated” with your course materials. For questions concerning the program or if you need assistance, please contact the Bookstore at [jenny.denning@msutexas.edu](mailto:jenny.denning@msutexas.edu).