



## SYLLABUS: International Agricultural Trade – AGBU 4643, Section X20

### Spring 2026

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### Course Materials (required)

- Required: Connect Access and Textbook International Economics, 18th Edition. ISBN10: 1264436793 | ISBN13: 9781264436798 By Thomas Pugel © 2024., McGraw-Hill.
- Required digital materials for this course are part of the Courseware Access and Affordability Program at MSU Texas. Students are charged for required course materials on their student account with the Business Office. Any students who wish to opt-out of the Program and purchase the required course materials on their own must do so based on instructions sent to you. Opt-out instructions are sent to students' official my.msutexas.edu email address after the first day of class. Please contact the MSU Bookstore if you have any questions about the opt-out process.
- You must have access to the Internet. (It will also be helpful to have access to a printer, but that is not mandatory.) All homework and SmartBook assignments will be completed online via Connect. The Desire2Learn (D2L) website will be utilized extensively for posting grades and information about the class. You should have access to a PC/laptop/tablet with webcam capability.
- Web base Agricultural news outlets
  - <https://www.morningagclips.com>
  - <https://www.agweb.com>

### Course Description

This course gives students an introduction to trade theory and policies and their application to international agricultural trade. It will include absolute and comparative advantage and international agricultural trade; imperfect competition and international agricultural trade; partial and general equilibrium analysis of international agricultural trade; analysis of trade policies such as tariffs, quotas, and subsidies; the exchange rate and international agricultural trade; foreign direct investment in the food industry; and international agricultural trade and development. Common industry language and as well as current event issues are also introduced.

### General Learning Goals:

- Demonstrate problem solving and decision-making abilities through the critical analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of business information.
- Establish competency in speaking and writing for common business scenarios.
- Be able to utilize available technology for common business applications.
- Demonstrate ethical reasoning skills within a business environment.

- Understand the influence of global and multicultural issues on business activities.

## **Course Specific Learning Goals:**

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Develop a thorough understanding of the fundamental tools influencing global agricultural trade and appreciate agriculture's essential contribution to the global economy
- Comprehend the theory of absolute advantage.
- See and learn about the theory of comparative advantage and the gains from trade.
- Realize the impact of trade policies, agreements, and regulations on agricultural production, distribution, and consumption.
- Demonstrate an understanding about the exchange rate and international agricultural trade.
- Analyze the role of multinational corporations in shaping global agricultural trade and development.
- Develop a strategic understanding of global events and their impacts on food and fiber trade.

## **Desire2Learn (D2L)**

This is the website for the course. Students are expected to check this website for important course information, course documents, and correspondence from the instructor regularly.

## **Attendance Policy:**

Since this course is taught asynchronously over the web, we have no regular scheduled meeting times, and therefore no required in-classroom attendance. Your grade is completely determined by your work and participation. In lieu of a normal physical attendance policy based on absences, your attendance will be measured by your assignments being turned in on time and participation in class discussion boards. As such, missing any three assignments or failing to login to the class web site for two consecutive weeks is equivalent to three unexcused absences, and in accordance with the Student Handbook and Undergraduate Catalog, can result in being administratively withdrawn from the course, which results in a grade of "F". D2L allows me to document each time you log into the course and what messages you have read in the discussion board.

## **Late Work, Makeup Work and Other Related Policies**

Students are responsible for maintaining a reliable internet connection for accessing course materials and submitting assignments. All assignments, quizzes, and group projects must be completed by their designated due dates, which will be clearly outlined in the Tentative Course Schedule. Late work is generally not accepted. Failure to submit assignments or adequately contribute to group work will result in a zero.

Students are expected to manage their time effectively to complete assignments and fully participate in group projects. If a student anticipates a scheduling conflict or emergency that may prevent timely completion of an assignment or quiz, they must contact the instructor in advance to discuss possible alternative arrangements.

### **File Submission**

All course files must be submitted through the D2L platform in PDF or Microsoft Word document format. Please do not submit assignments directly to the instructor unless specifically instructed.

Detailed instructions for submitting assignments can be found in the project guidelines posted in D2L. Please note that the instructor reserves the right to modify due dates as needed. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on D2L.

## Grading and Evaluation

Online courses offer the flexibility to learn at your own pace, but this freedom requires strong time management skills and active participation. To ensure success in this course, students must effectively manage their time and adhere to assignment deadlines. All assignments, including quizzes, group projects, and class discussions, must be submitted or participated in by their due dates. Late work, including late submissions or non-participation in group projects or discussions, will not be accepted unless prior arrangements and approval have been made with the instructor.

Procrastination can significantly impact student performance. To maximize learning and achieve desired outcomes, students are encouraged to stay current with course materials, complete assignments promptly, actively participate in class discussions, and seek clarification when needed. By adopting effective time management strategies and engaging fully in the course, students can optimize their learning experience.

## Graded Elements

Student performance will be assessed using the following elements:

Element	Points
McGraw Hill Connect Orientation Videos	5
Personal Biography Essay (Desire2Learn)	20
Chapter Quizzes (12 @ 10 points each)	120
Homework Reading Assignment (12 @ 5 pt each)	60
Exam 1	50
Exam 2	50
Exam 3	50
Current Event Pop Quizzes (8@10 points each)	80
Applied Professional Development/Networking	65
<b>Total Point Available without the final</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Final Exam (Optional)</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Total Point Available with the final</b>	<b>550</b>

Grades will be determined on the basis of the total points earned. Letter grades will be given according to the following scale:

Letter Grade	% pt available	Points Earned <b>(No Final Exam)</b>	Points Earned <b>(with Final Exam)</b>
A	90%	500 - 450	550 - 495
B	80%	449 - 400	494 - 440
C	70%	399 - 350	439 - 385
D	60%	349 - 300	384 - 330
F	< 60%	< 300	< 330

In order to help students to keep track of their progress toward the course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report on WebWorld of the students that are at risk of earning an D or an F in this class. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should see the instructor as soon as possible to discuss strategies (e.g., tutoring) that can contribute to earning a better grade.

### Personal Biography Essay

Each student will be required to write a short personal biography with a portrait photo of yourself. The assignment will be submitted using the D2L web-based platform. Specific instructions will be presented will be available on the D2L class site.

### Chapter Quizzes

Students will have approximately one week to complete a 10-question multiple-choice quiz on the chapter material. The quiz will cover information from both in-class discussions and assigned readings. Once you start the quiz, you will have 15 minutes to finish and submit your answers.

Please be sure to attend class regularly, check D2L for important announcements, and actively participate in class discussions. **Please note that there will be no make-up quizzes.**

### Chapter Homework - Reading Assignment

Before each chapter quiz, there will be an interactive reading assignment post on D2L designed to help you better understand the chapter material. This assignment will provide feedback to improve your learning and success.

### Exams

Exams will be given using the online testing tools available on the D2L platform. On-line testing will require to use online proctoring software such as Respondus or a similar software. Students will also be required to have a webcam on the computer where exams are conducted.

There will be three midterm exam and an optional comprehensive final exam. The exams' structure can include definitions, problems, and multiple-choice questions. Students may use a calculator to solve some problems in the exams, however only non-programmable calculators will be allowed (i.e. TI-30X IIS calculator).

If you miss an exam without prior approval from the instructor, please do not expect a makeup exam. With prior consent, you may take a makeup 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 in those dates will be announced as soon as possible and posted prominently on D2L.

### Current Event Pop Quizzes

Current event quizzes will be of the pop quiz variety. Once posted, you will have approximately one week to complete a 3-5 question multiple-choice quiz on current event topics. The quiz questions will be based on articles, videos, or podcasts related to current events that are posted on D2L by the instructor. These resources will come from reputable news outlets.

Once you start the quiz, you will have 15 minutes to finish and submit your answers.

Only the top 8 quiz grades will be counted towards your final grade. If more than 8 quizzes are given, the lowest scores will be dropped.

Please be sure check D2L regularly for important announcements, and actively participate in class discussions. Please note that there will be no make-up quizzes.

### Applied Professional Development/Networking

Professional networking is vital for career success because it offers diverse opportunities, knowledge sharing, skill development, emotional support, visibility, collaboration chances, and access to decision-makers. It aids in career progression, provides industry insights, and enhances personal branding by fostering meaningful relationships.

Full participation in at least one AgBU Business and Industry tour is required for this course.

A professional interview alternative assignment option will be available for students who are unable to join the AgBU Business and Industry tour due to conflicts that are associated with being enrolled in this on-line course.

To receive full credit for the Professional Development/Networking component of this course, whether you participated in the AgBU tour or completed the alternative assignment, you must write a handwritten thank-you note or card on professional stationery using blue or black ink. These notes should be mailed (USPS) to the presenters or interviewees you spoke with during this assignment. Additionally, a scanned copy of the completed thank-you note must be uploaded to D2L for the assignment to be considered complete.

More detailed instructions will be available on the D2L class site.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

This class follows the guidelines suggested by the Disabilities Support Office for those students who qualify for disability services. For more information, see Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog.

### **Academic Integrity**

With regard to academic honesty, students are referred to the "Student Honor Creed" on page 23 of Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog, Volume LXXV, Number 2.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student who plagiarizes on any written assignment will receive a 0 for the assignment and/or course and be referred to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action.

### **Professional Conduct**

Students in this course should behave in a professional manner at all times. This includes classroom conduct, group interactions, presentations, and correspondence with the instructor. E-mails to the instructor that are not professional will not be answered. Please see the later section of the syllabus for the full professionalism statement of the Dillard College of Business Administration.

### **Professionalism Statement from the Dillard College of Business Administration**

The faculty, staff, and students of the Dillard College of Business Administration are committed to being a "professional" in our words, conduct, and actions. The qualities of a professional include:

A commitment to the development of specialized knowledge:

- Competency in analytical, oral and written communication skills
- Self-discipline
- Reliability
- Honesty and integrity
- Trustworthiness
- Timeliness
- Accountability for words and actions
- Respect for others and other cultures
- Politeness and good manners
- A professional image (professionals look professional)
- An awareness of their environment and adaptability to different settings
- Confidence without arrogance
- A commitment to giving back to your community

## **Syllabus Changes:**

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

## **Course Content and Outline**

Please understand this is only a guideline and some minor details may change! Please check the course calendar on Brightspace/D2L. It will be the official calendar for the class, and any changes or alterations will be noted there as well as on the class discussion board.

<b>Week or Module</b>	<b>Activities/Assignments/Exams</b>
Week 1 1/19 to 1/25	Syllabus/Intro Ch 2 – Basic Theory of Supply and Demand Personal Bio
Week 2 1/26 to 2/1	Ch3 - Why Everybody Trades: Comparative Advantage Current Event Article #1
Week 3 2/2 to 2/8	Ch 4 - Trade Factors (Availability and Proportions)
Week 4 2/9 to 2/15	Ch 5 - Who Gains and Who Loses from Trade? Current Event Article #2 Alt Professional Development Op #1 - Job I Love with Stephen Santellana (WS Construction) - TBA
Week 5 2/16 to 2/22	Exam 1 ( <b>Wednesday</b> )
Week 6 2/23 to 3/1	Ch 7 - Growth and Trade Current Event Article #3
Week 7 3/2 to 3/8	Ch 8 - Analysis of a Tariff Current Event Article #4

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams
Week 8 3/9 to 3/15	Spring Break
Week 9 3/16 to 3/22	Ch 9 - Nontariff Barriers to Imports Alt Professional Development Op #2 - Job I Love with Jessica Dean: Sober Living - TBA
Week 10 3/23 to 3/29	Ch 10 - Arguments for and Against Protection Current Event Article #5
Week 11 3/30 to 4/5	Exam 2 ( <b>Wednesday</b> )
Week 12 4/6 to 4/12	Ch 11 - Pushing Exports Current Event Article #6
Week 13 4/13 to 4/19	Ch 12 - Trade Blocs and Trade Blocks Current Event Article #7
Week 14 4/20 to 4/26	Ch 15 - Multinational and Migration Alt Professional Development Op #3 - Job I Love with Goodin Plumbing – TBA <b>Professional Development - AgBU Business &amp; Industry Tour (Friday)</b>
Week 15 4/27 to 5/3	Ch 17 - The Foreign Exchange Market Current Event Article #8
Week 16 5/4 to 5/10	Exam 3 ( <b>Wednesday</b> )
Week 17 5/11 to 5/13	Optional Final Exam ( <b>Wednesday</b> )