



Dillard College of Business Administration

Syllabus: International Agricultural Trade

AGBU 4643 Section X30

Summer I 2022

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 an online meeting on Zoom at [ZoomMeeting](#), or we can do email discussion.

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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 of being your instructor of intermediate microeconomics and thanks you for taking this class.

Text:

Dominick, Salvatore. 2020. *International Economics*. 13th ed. Danvers, MA: John Wiley and Sons, Inc. (*Required*)

Aksoy, M. Ataman; Begin, John C. 2005. *Global Agricultural Trade and Developing Countries*. Washington, DC: World Bank. World Bank. (Recommended) It is free, and it may be downloaded at [World Bank](#).

Love, P. and R. Lattimore (2009), *International Trade: Free, Fair and Open?* OECD Insights, OECD Publishing, Paris. (Recommended) It is free, and it may be downloaded at [OECD](#).

Thompson-Lipponen, C. and J. Greenville. 2019. The Evolution of the Treatment of Agriculture in Preferential Trade Agreements. *OECD Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Papers*, No. 126, OECD Publishing, Paris. (Recommended) It is free, and it may be downloaded at [OECD](#).

The three recommended books complement the theory explained by Salvatore (2020). They discuss applications of trade theory and policies to agricultural trade. I strongly recommend you download these three books and add them to your library.

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 an introduction to trade theory and policies and their application to international agricultural trade. This includes 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.

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 trade theory and policies and their applications to international agricultural trade.

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 agricultural trade theory and policy and their relationships to the U.S. economy and foreign economies 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 the applications of trade theory and policies to issues of international agricultural trade.

3. Ethical decision makers. The students will demonstrate their ethical reasoning skills when analyzing issues of international agricultural trade that are related to the U.S. economy and global economic issues.
4. Globalization and international agricultural trade. The students will demonstrate their ability in understanding issues of globalization, economic integration, and international agricultural trade. This includes the importance of global agricultural markets, open international markets, development and globalization, economic integration, and multinational agribusinesses.

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 the theory of absolute advantage.
- Learn about the theory of comparative advantage and the gains from trade.
- Learn about economies of scale and international trade.
- Learn about trade policies and their effect on agricultural trade.
- Learn about exchange rate and international agricultural trade.
- Learn about multinationals corporations in the food industry.
- Learn about agricultural trade and development.

Teaching Method:

Given that this is an online course, the course starts on 05/31/2022 and ends on 06/30/2022 as stated in the 2021-22 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 D2L by the due date. Class notes for each chapter and other related class materials will be posted on D2L. The student 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. D2L will be used for posting announcements and scores, and perhaps bonuses.

Course Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Attendance will be checked each week based on assignment submissions. Students are expected to submit all assignments (attend all scheduled classes) for this course given the university attendance policy. Missing three-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 in 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).

I recommend you 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 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 a 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 for 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 in 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 D2L. 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 online. The student will have an adequate amount of time for each assignment, and you must not fall behind. If you miss an assignment, you will earn zero credits.

The homework and quizzes score will be for 260 points.

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

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

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(Subject to some changes and additional readings)

Week and dates	Chapter	Topic
Week 1 (May 31, Jun 5)	2, 3, 4	The law of comparative advantage; The standard theory of international trade; Demand and supply, offer curves, and the terms of trade.
Week 2 (Jun 6, 12)	5, 6, 7	Factor endowment and the Heckscher-Ohlin theory; Economies of scales, imperfect competition, and international trade; Economic growth and international trade.
Exam 1	2, 3, 4, 5	Friday, June 10, 2022
Week 3 (Jun 13, 19)	8, 9, 10	Trade restrictions: Tariffs; Nontariff trade barriers and the new protectionism; Economic integration: Customs unions and free trade areas
June 16	NA	Last day for "W". Deadline at 4:00pm. Drops after this deadline receive an "F"
Week 4 (Jun 20, 26)	11, 12, 14	International trade and economic development; International resource movements and multinational corporations; Foreign exchange markets and exchange rates.
Exam 2	6, 7, 8, 9	Friday, June 24, 2022
Week 5 (Jun 27, Jul 30)	15	Foreign exchange markets and exchange rates; Exchange rate determination.
Final Exam	NA	Thursday, June 30, 2022

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