

College of Business Administration  
Department of Economics and International Business

**ECON 4340 – International Economics**  
Fall 2017

Meeting Time: Monday and Wednesday 12:30–1:50 PM

Class Room: SHB 134

**Prerequisite: ECON 2300 or ECON 2301 or ECON 2302**

Instructor: Dr. Zijun Luo (*aka* Professor Z)

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:30–11:00 AM

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30–10:45 AM or by appointment

## 1 Course Description

This course introduces students to international economics. Broadly defined, international economics studies the cross-border movements of the following kinds: (1) goods and services as in international trade, tourism, and out-sourcing, (2) capital/money as in foreign direct investment (FDI) and international aids, or (3) people as in immigration. ECON 4340 covers a wide range of topics of international economics, with special emphasis on international trade theory and policy.

## 2 Required Materials

- Krugman, Obstfeld, and Melitz, *“International Economics: Theory & Policy,”* 11/E, Pearson

Online ebook is available free of charge to SHSU students. Please following instructions posted in the course page on SHSU Online (Blackboard) under the tab “Syllabus” for enrollment information. Additional reading materials will be posted when necessary, especially for the purpose of the writing assignments.

## 3 IDEA Learning Objectives

1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)
2. Developing knowledge and understanding of diverse perspectives, global awareness, or other cultures
3. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
4. Learning how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore a topic in depth

## 4 Course Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students will have learned

1. The extent and nature of international commercial transactions.
2. The basic theoretical aspects of international trade theory and policy.

3. The fundamentals and operations of the international payments mechanism.
4. To use simple analytical tools to study international economics issues and to understand future events as they occur.
5. To apply economics principles to understand “real world” international economics problems.
6. To critically evaluate economic ideas, arguments, and points of view relating to international economics.

## 5 Student Conduct and Discipline

Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with all published policies, rules, and regulations of Sam Houston State University, copies of which shall be available to each student for review online and/or at various locations on campus. Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws.

### 5.1 Academic Honesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/>.

### 5.2 Cell Phone Policy

You will be asked to leave the classroom, unless prior approval is obtained, if you use your cellphone during class. The use of any cell phones, text messaging devices, or other electronic devices that are not explicitly approved during an exam is strictly prohibited and is considered cheating. SHSU Academic Policy Statement 100728 states:

**“Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty”**

For more details on the University’s policy on the use of telephones and text messagers, see: <https://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/6d35c9c9-e3e9-4695-a1a1-11951b88bc63.pdf>.

### 5.3 Attendance and Movements Into and Out of Class

The instructor reserves the right to record attendance for each class meeting. According to university policy, “regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.” See your undergraduate catalog for more details.

While the student is in class, he/she is expected to be awake and paying attention. Students should not study for another class while in this class. Students should not come and go from the classroom during the lecture, unless in

extreme situations. Moving into and out of class interrupts the flow of class material, distracting both the students and the professor. Please be courteous by arriving to class on time and refrain from leaving the room until the class is dismissed.

#### **5.4 Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>.

#### **5.5 Students with Disabilities Policy**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

## 5.6 Visitors in the Classroom

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

## 5.7 Other University Policies

For a complete list of university policies, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>.

## 6 Course Evaluation Process

• Homework	100 points
12 homework assignments, each is potentially worth 10 points	
• Writing assignment	100 points
4 writing assignments (details to be announced)	
• Mid-term exam	300 points
3 mid-term exams, each is potentially worth 100 points	
• Final exam	100 points

Homework assignments are **due in class** on the scheduled due days (listed in the tentative class schedule attached to the end of this syllabus). Homework is graded for both completion and correctness. Among the 20 total potential points, 10 are given based on completion (turning in the homework on time) and 10 are awarded based on correctness. The 2 lowest homework scores will be dropped. Keep in mind that exam questions will strongly resemble the homework problems. Hence it is in each student's best interest to completely understand the homework problems.

There are four writing assignments. In the first three assignments, you will be asked to read a news article, summarize it, and comment on it using what you have learned in class. Each of these three assignments is worth 20 points, 5 of which are completion credits, 10 of which are graded based on your writing (see below), and the last 5 points are awarded based on content (how well you summarize the article and how closely you connect it to course materials). Your summary and comments combined should be *no less than* 200 words.

The last writing assignment is worth 40 points, 5 of which are completion credits, 20 of which are graded based on your writing (see below), and the last 15 points are awarded based on content (how well you summarize the article and how closely you connect it to course materials). For this assignment, you will need to find your own news article that are related to the course materials. You will read it, summarize it, and comment on it.

*All writing assignments should be submitted to Blackboard, by the end of the due days, where the writing (spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.) will be graded by an English instructor using a rubric (details to follow). Instructions on how to submit the assignment in Blackboard will be discussed later.*

There will be three mid-term exams plus the final. **All exams are mandatory and comprehensive.** The exams will be closed book, however, students will be allowed the use of a *non-graphing, non-programmable scientific calculator*. Students will be given the entire class period (80 minutes) to complete a mid-term exam. A missed exam will be scored as a zero.

#### Exam Dates

- Exam 1 ..... Wednesday, September 20, 2017
- Exam 2 ..... Wednesday, October 18, 2017
- Exam 3 ..... Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 2016
- Final Exam ..... Monday, December 4, 2017 at 1PM

If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to take a mid-term exam at the scheduled time, come to me and discuss the conflict *at least 24 hours ahead of the scheduled exam period*. An arrangement may or may not be made for you to take the exam early. However, under no circumstances will you be allowed to take an exam after the scheduled time.

Exam scores will be posted on SHSU Online once graded.

**All students must take the final exam.** There are no make-up final exams, unless otherwise permitted and approved according to SHSU policy. Students must take the final exam at the officially scheduled time.

Your lowest midterm exam score will be replaced by your final exam score as long as the latter is higher than the former. In case the lowest midterm exam score appeared more than once, only one will be replaced.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

Points Earned	% of Total Available Points	Grade Assigned
[540, 600]	[90%, 100%]	A
[480, 540)	[80%, 90%)	B
[420, 480)	[70%, 80%)	C
[360, 420)	[60%, 70%)	D
[0, 360)	[0, 60%)	F

## 7 Important Dates

Friday, September 8	Fall 2017 Degree Application Deadline
Friday, September 8	Last Day to Drop Without a “Q” Grade and Receive 100% Refund
Friday, November 10	Last Day to Drop with a “Q” Grade

## 8 Tutoring

Tutoring hours and location are pending.

## 9 Disclaimer

This syllabus is tentative and may be subject to change based on the needs of the class.

## 10 Tentative Class Schedule

		<b>Chapters</b>	<b>HW Due</b>	<b>WA Due</b>	<b>Note</b>
8/23/2017	Wed.	1-2			
8/28/2017	Mon.	3	HW 1		
8/30/2017	Wed.	3			
9/4/2017	Mon.	Labor Day (no class)			
9/6/2017	Wed.	4			
9/11/2017	Mon.	4	HW 2	WA1	
9/13/2017	Wed.	6			
9/18/2017	Mon.	6	HW 3		
9/20/2017	Wed.	Exam 1			
9/25/2017	Mon.	7	HW 4	WA2	
9/27/2017	Wed.	5			
10/2/2017	Mon.	8	HW 5		Reading
10/4/2017	Wed.	9			Reading
10/9/2017	Mon.	9	HW 6		
10/11/2017	Wed.	10			Reading
10/16/2017	Mon.	11	HW 7		Reading
10/18/2017	Wed.	Exam 2			
10/23/2017	Mon.	12	HW 8	WA3	Reading
10/25/2017	Wed.	13			Reading
10/30/2017	Mon.	14	HW 9		
11/1/2017	Wed.	14			
11/6/2017	Mon.	15	HW 10		
11/8/2017	Wed.	15			
11/13/2017	Mon.	16	HW 11		
11/15/2017	Wed.	Exam 3			
11/20/2017	Mon.	17	HW 12	WA4	
11/22/2017	Wed.	Thanksgiving (no class)			
11/27/2017	Mon.	18			Reading
11/29/2017	Wed.	Final Review			
12/4/2017	Mon.	Final Exam 1-3PM			