



EAST TEXAS A&M

AEC 560.01W – INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SUMMER 2, 2025

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor

Name: Dr. Jose Lopez, Professor of Agribusiness
Office location: Agricultural Science Building, Room 231
Office phone: (903) 886-5623
Office fax: (903) 886-5990
University email address: Jose.Lopez@etamu.edu

Class Time

Web Based Course (myleonline.tamuc.edu)

Office Hours

You can contact me via email at Jose.Lopez@etamu.edu. Alternatively, you can email me from D2L (myleonline.tamuc.edu). I generally answer emails within 48 hours. Students who email me after 5:00 PM can expect to receive a reply within 48 hours starting at 8:00 a.m. of the next business day (M-F). Students who email me during holidays or over the weekend should expect a reply within 48 hours from 8:00 a.m. of the next regularly scheduled business day.

COURSE INFORMATION

Optional Textbook

Introduction to International Economics, Third Edition, by Dominick Salvatore, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2012. (ISBN 9780470934890)

Prerequisites

None.

Teaching Philosophy

1. A course must deliver information, concepts and methods that will be useful in the student's professional life. However, learning analytical reasoning skills and improving the ability to process and use information efficiently is more important than memorizing facts and formulas and performing procedures repeatedly.
2. Students learn best when theories, concepts and procedures are explained in plain language as well as formally, and are complemented with examples or applications that are relevant to the students.

Character Formation

It is important during your graduate education to learn the values and rewards of hard work, responsibility, and honesty. The professor will promote character formation while teaching the course.

Course Description

Analytical treatment of historical, recent and current agricultural trade issues, and policies with national and international scope that affect agricultural trade. The focus is on developing an understanding of the causes and consequences of trade, the various issues that result from trade, and how policies can affect agricultural trade.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course the students will be able to:

- Understand several concepts and terminology associated with agricultural trade.
- Discuss policy issues from a national and international perspective.
- Describe the role of country in international trade.
- Identify and understand some agricultural policies that affect international trade.
- Recognize national and international agencies and organizations involved in agricultural trade.
- Learn approaches that can be used to analyze agricultural trade.
- Understand research on food and agricultural trade.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems)

Topics

- Economic Development and Food
 - Developed, sub-developed, and developing countries; population in agriculture; famine and hunger; understanding hunger; reasons for hunger; solutions to hunger; demand for food; food quantity and quality; sectors of the food industry; food marketing
- Undernourishment Around the World
 - Undernourishment; hunger trends and world regions; reasons for the worsening undernourishment trends; reasons for progress in hunger reduction; international prices and consumer prices
- Measuring Different Dimensions of Food Security
 - Dimensions of food security; food availability, access, utilization, and stability; food security indicators; food supplies and undernourishment; food utilization, food quality, and preparation; access to water supplies; food stability
- The Global Economy
 - Meaning and importance of globalization; international trade and standard of living; migration and capital; economic integration and globalization; international economics and its major problems
- Comparative Advantage
 - Mercantilists' views on trade; absolute advantage; law of comparative advantage; opportunity costs and commodity prices; gains from trade
- Trade Restrictions: Tariffs and Nontariffs Trade Barriers

- Effect of tariffs ; costs and benefits of tariffs; optimum tariff; retaliation; tariff structure; import quotas and other nontariff trade barriers; dumping and export subsidies
- The Political Economy of Protectionism
 - Political economy of protectionism; outsourcing, offshoring, and fear of globalization; strategic trade and industrial policies; the Uruguay Round; World Trade Organization, and current international problems
- Preferential agreements
 - NAFTA, MERCOSUR, EU, Japan, China, Russia, and developing countries
- World Trade Organization
 - Benefits, barriers, and evolution
- Economic Integration
 - Economic integration schemes; trade creation and diversion; benefits of economic integration; economic integration and preferential agreements
- The Foreign Exchange Market and Exchange Rates
 - Meaning and functions of the foreign exchange market; meaning of equilibrium exchange rate; cross exchange rate, effective exchange rate, and arbitrage; relationship of the exchange rate and the balance of payments; spot and forward exchange rates; exchange futures and options; foreign exchange risks; meaning of hedging, speculation, and interest arbitrage
- Exchange Rate Determination
 - Forces that affect exchange rates, how exchange rates are determined; purchasing-power parity theory; exchange rate determination according to monetary approach; asset portfolio approach; volatility and forecasts
- Governance for Development: The Challenges
 - Conflicting interests; bargains and barriers; policy selection and implementation
- Governance for Development: Why Policies Fail
 - Governance and power asymmetries
- U.S. Commodity Markets and China's Agricultural Policies
 - The role of governance and law in development; the underlying determinants of policy effectiveness; the different roles that law plays in shaping and reshaping the policy arena in which actors bargain over policy design and implementation; how commitment, coordination, and cooperation fundamentally underlie the effectiveness of policies to promote security, growth, and equity; the dynamics of how change occurs from the perspective of elite bargains, citizen engagement, and international influences.

GRADING

Grading

Exam 1-5	70.00%
Quizzes	15.00%
Assignments and discussions	15.00%
	<hr/> 100.00%

Note: There would be an optional final comprehensive exam (Exam 5). The optional final comprehensive exam will replace your lowest exam grade (if you decide to take it). All your grades will be available in the D2L, the learning management system used by East Texas A&M University.

Grading Scale

<u>Range</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100.00	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
Less than 60	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This course will be offered online using D2L, the learning management system used by East Texas A&M University. Students will be required to download PowerPoint presentations and other important class material from the D2L website for the course.

Learning Management System

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be offered online using D2L, the learning management system used by East Texas A&M University. To log into the course, go to: myleoonline.tamuc.edu

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found at: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The primary form of communication with the class will be through course Announcements and emails. Any changes to the syllabus or other important information critical to the class will be disseminated to students via class Announcements and/or via email through your official university email address available to you through MyLeo. It will be your responsibility to check the course Announcements and your university email regularly.

I generally answer emails within 48 hours. Students who email me after 5:00 PM can expect to receive a reply within 48 hours starting at 8:00 am of the next business day (M-F). Students who email me during holidays or over the weekend should expect a reply within 48 hours from 8:00 AM of the next regularly scheduled business day.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Academic Honesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) receiving a failing grade on the assignment, the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. In **ALL** instances, incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head. Please be aware that academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating is defined as:

- Copying another's test or assignment
- Communication with another during an exam or assignment (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
- Giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
- Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key

Plagiarism is defined as:

- Using someone else's work in your assignment without appropriate acknowledgement
- Making slight variations in the language and then failing to give credit to the source

Collusion is defined as:

- Collaborating with another, without authorization, when preparing an assignment

If you have any questions regarding academic dishonesty, ask. Otherwise, I will assume that you have full knowledge of the academic dishonesty policy and agree to the conditions as set forth in this syllabus.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class and actively participate. Student participation/activity will be monitored by the professor. Students should plan to dedicate approximately 15-20 hours/week of time to this course.

APA Citation Format Policy

It is very important that you learn how to cite properly. In some ways, citations are more important than the actual text of your paper/assignment. Therefore, you should take this task seriously and devote some time to understanding how to cite properly. If you take the time to understand this process up front, it will save you a significant amount of time in the long run (not to mention significant deductions in points).

In the social and behavioral sciences, we generally follow the APA (American Psychological Association) formatting style. As a rule of thumb, one cites whenever they are paraphrasing other people's words or when they quote other's words directly. You may learn to cite from a variety of different sources including the APA Tutorial and the sources listed below and in the Getting Started section of your course.

www.apastyle.org

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>

www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/apa

It is the student's responsibility to understand how to cite properly. If you have questions, feel free to ask.

Late Work

It is the student's responsibility to plan accordingly and submit their assignments in a timely manner. Class assignments will be announced. The instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of zero to any late assignment.

Drop Course Policy

Students should take responsibility for dropping themselves from the course according to university policy should this become necessary.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Counseling Center

A student that faces a crisis or a serious and unforeseeable event that affects his/her class performance must contact the Counseling Center, Halladay Student Services Building, Room 203, Phone (903) 886-5145. If important class material or course assignments are missed because of such crisis or event, the student must contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Website: <http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/counselingCenter/>

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit the following website.

Website: www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute 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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Website:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Description
July 7, Monday	First day of classes.
Aug 7, Thursday	Last day of classes.
Aug 7, Thursday	Final Exam

COURSE CALENDAR

Every effort will be made to adhere to the course calendar below. However, unforeseen circumstances may require changes to the course calendar. In that case, changes will be announced via University Email and in Announcements. The professor reserves the right to change the course calendar if necessary and depending on the progress of the class. I highly recommend that you follow the calendar outlined below **VERY CAREFULLY** so that you are sure to complete readings as assigned and turn your assignments in on time.

AEC 560.01W – INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE
Course Calendar, Summer 2, 2025
Web-Based Class

Day	Date	Subject/Material Covered	Assignment (Due By 11:59 PM on Date Provided)
Week 1			
Mon.	July 7	Syllabus, D2L Tutorial (MyLeo Online Student Resource Course) Module 1: Economic Development and Food	
Tue.	July 8	Module 1 (Cont.)	Quiz Discussion Assignment
Wed.	July 9	Module 2: Undernourishment and Food Sec.	
Th.	July 10	Module 2 (Cont.)	Quiz Discussion
Su.	July 13	Exam 1 (Modules 1-2)	Exam 1
Week 2			
Mon.	July 14	Module 3: The Global Economy	
Tue.	July 15	Module 3 (Cont.)	Quiz Discussion
Wed.	July 16	Module 4: Comparative Advantage	
Th.	July 17	Module 4 (Cont.)	Quiz Discussion Assignment
Su.	July 20	Exam 2 (Modules 3-4)	Exam 2
Week 3			
Mon.	July 21	Module 5: Trade Restrictions: Tariffs	
Tue.	July 22	Module 5 (Cont.)	Quiz Discussion

Wed.	July 23	Module 6: Non-tariffs Trade Barriers	
Th.	July 24	Module 6 (Cont.)	Quiz Discussion
Sun.	July 27	Module 7: Economic Integration	Quiz Discussion
Week 4			
Mon.	July 28	Exam 3 (Modules 5-7)	
Tue.	July 29	Exam 3 (Cont.)	Exam 3
Wed.	July 30	Module 8: Governance and The Law	
Th.	July 31	Module 8 (Cont.)	Quiz Discussion Assignment
Sun.	Aug 3	Module 9: U.S. Commodity Markets and China's Agricultural Policies	Quiz Discussion Assignment
Week 5			
Mon.	Aug 4	Exam 4 (Modules 8-9)	
Tue.	Aug 5	Exam 4 (Cont.)	Exam 4
Wed.	Aug 6	Study day	
Th.	Aug 7	Optional Comprehensive Exam 5 (Modules 1-9)	Exam 5