



Global Economics

ECON 2100 | Spring 2025

Course Information

Meeting Times: T/Th 2:15-3:30pm

Location: Aderhold 5

Instructor: M. Cade Lawson

E-mail: mlawson18@gsu.edu (send all communication to e-mail, not through iCollege message!)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00pm and 3:30-4:30pm or by appointment

Office Location: 55 Park Place 728 (desk has my name on it)

Course Description

Economies are increasingly integrated, societies are increasingly interconnected, and governments are increasingly interdependent. The process that underlies these developments is known as globalization, and globalization has made the world feel – and operate – like a smaller place. We now interact with distant places daily through travel, trade, and communications. In this course you will explore the forces that have contributed to the virtual shrinking of the earth and investigate the benefits and costs of globalization. This course, intended for the economics novice, will initially focus on the basic tools of the discipline: supply and demand, gross domestic product, inflation measurement, and the production possibilities frontier. We will study current issues facing the economies of the world using the tools of economic analysis, with a focus on the role of government policy and international trade arrangements in shaping the world as we know it today.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to evaluate the pros and cons of globalization. You will do so by mastering the following learning objectives:

1. Apply the concepts of supply and demand
2. Define the concepts of resources and wants, and relate them to scarcity and opportunity costs.
3. Identify the production possibility frontier and to use it to measure opportunity costs.
4. Describe the concepts and measurement of gross domestic product, unemployment, inflation, absolute advantage and comparative advantage, balance of payments and its components, as well as the determinants of exchange rates.
5. Identify the benefits and costs of free trade.
6. Define globalization and understand its history.
7. Explain the roles of international trading arrangements and the functions of international organizations.

Textbook and Materials

We will use *Introduction to the Global Economy (3rd Edition)* by Paul Kagundu and Glenwood Ross. Be sure you get the 2nd or 3rd edition!

No other course materials will have any cost. All assignments will be submitted through iCollege, and any additional readings will be available there as well.

Grading

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Assignment	Weight
Homework (5 total)	30%
Midterm #1	20%
Midterm #2	20%
Final Exam	30%

If you receive a higher grade on the Final Exam than on Midterm 1, your Final Exam grade will replace your Midterm 1 grade. If your Final Exam grade is lower than your Midterm 1 grade, the grading scheme remains as above.

Homework: You will be given 5 homework assignments during the semester. Each assignment has equal weight. They will include a mix of multiple choice, free response, and graphing questions, plus some questions related to outside material (usually news articles or short podcasts). I encourage you to work in groups of up to 4 on your homework assignments, but you can work alone. **I will give you a 2% bonus on your final grade if you work in a group on all homework assignments.** Your homework assignments should be uploaded on iCollege. I recommend answering questions on paper and scanning them to upload. Only one student per group needs to submit the assignment.

Midterm Exams: There will be two in-class midterms. You will have the full 75 minutes to complete each exam. All exams are closed-notes. You may bring a calculator and one piece of blank scratch paper to the exam. Midterm exams are not cumulative. Exams will have questions of varying difficulty, and I may curve scores upwards (but never downwards) depending on the performance of the class. Exams may cover any content from the textbook, slides, and outside material covered in class or on homeworks (i.e. readings or podcasts).

Final Exam: The final exam will be cumulative. You will have 2.5 hours to complete the exam. It is closed-notes, and you may bring a blank sheet of scratch paper and a calculator to the exam. The final exam will be held on *Thursday, May 1st from 1:30pm - 4:00pm in Aderhold 5*. I may curve scores upwards (but never downwards) depending on the performance of the class. The final may cover any content from the textbook, slides, and outside material covered in class (i.e. readings or podcasts).

Grade percentages will be assigned to a letter grade according to the following scale:

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A+	> 97	B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	D	60 - 69
A	94 - 97	B	84 - 86	C	74 - 76	F	< 60
A-	90 - 93	B-	80 - 83	C-	70 - 73		

Course Policies

Late Submissions: Late assignments will not be accepted. If you need additional time to submit an assignment, contact me no less than 24 hours before the assignment due date with your request.

Makeup Exams: Exam makeups will only be allowed for university-verified absences. If you expect to miss an exam, it is very important to reach out to me immediately and start the process of verifying your absence with the university [using this link](#). No makeups will be allowed if an excuse is received after the exam has already been administered. No exam retakes will be allowed.

Regrade Requests: If you think I've made a mistake in grading, notify me no later than 2 weeks after you receive your grade. No regrades will be done after this period.

Instructor Response Times: Please allow up to 36 hours for me to respond to your email before sending another. I will almost always respond much faster than this.

Attendance: I will take attendance every class. Attendance is not a part of your grade because I recognize that different things may prevent you from coming to class a few times. However, you are expected to attend class whenever you can. Extra credit opportunities will only be available to students who are in class that day, regardless of reason for the absence. If you find yourself on the border between two grades at the end of the semester, I will make the decision to round up or not based on your attendance and participation in class.

Extra Credit: I may offer extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. Some or all may be available only to students who attend class on that day.

Additional Policies and Information

Syllabus Disclaimer: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Basic Needs Statement: Students who face challenges securing their food or housing and believe this may affect their performance in a course are urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable us to provide resources that we may possess. The [Embark Program at GSU](#) provides resources for students facing homelessness.

Course Evaluations: Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take the time to fill out the online course evaluation.

Students with Accommodations: Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Access and Accommodation Center. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the [Access and Accommodation Center](#) of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which accommodations are sought.

For more information, contact the GSU Access and Accommodations Center (AACE) Phone: (404) 413-1560, Email: access@gsu.edu, Website: access.gsu.edu/ Address: Student Center East, Suite 205, 55 Gilmer Street, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Remote Academic Coaching: The Access and Accommodations Center (AACE) also offers free remote academic coaching. To learn more about these services visit [this link](#).

Academic Integrity: In the event of academic dishonesty, policies stated in the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Policy on Academic Honesty](#) will be followed. Cheating includes presenting another's work as your own, presenting previous work as work done in this semester, copying the work of another, the use of unauthorized materials during an exam, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) or other assistance to complete assignments, etc. If you have any questions about whether an activity is cheating, refer to the Deans of Students or see the instructor. The instructor with the guidance of university policies, will determine the sanction for dishonest behavior. Academic Dishonesty

may result in an F for the course and may result in suspension or expulsion from the College.

Student Disruptive Behavior: Students are expected to behave properly in the shared student learning environment – so as not to interfere with the learning environment of others in the class. Students not adhering to these rules/guidelines may be asked to leave the class and may be subject to an administrative withdrawal (depending on the severity of the infraction). For an online course, this includes disruptive behavior in the course website(s). See the Student Code of Conduct Handbook for more information on GSU’s policy on disruptive student behavior in the classroom or other learning environment.

Core Impacts: Global Economics (Econ 2100) is part of the Core Curriculum at Georgia State University. The Core Curriculum consists of the following seven areas:

- Institutional Priority
- Mathematics & Quantitative Skills
- Political Science and U.S. History
- Arts, Humanities & Ethics
- Communicating in Writing
- Technology, Mathematics & Sciences
- Social Sciences

IMPACTS is the acronym that is used as a shorthand for the Core Curriculum areas. Core IMPACTS Career-Ready Competencies are broad transferable skills that go beyond the content of specific courses. Responsibility for cultivating Career-Ready Competencies has been assigned to courses in each Core IMPACTS area and it is expected that students will develop these competencies through taking these courses.

The Core IMPACTS area that this course falls under is Social Sciences. The Orienting Question we will be addressing is “How do I understand human experiences and connections?”

Schedule

Note: The course schedule is subject to change. The most recent version of the syllabus will be on iCollege.

Week 1

Jan. 14	Introduction & Syllabus Review Key Concepts and Principles in Economics (Chapter 1)
Jan. 16	Supply and Demand (Chapter 2)
<i>Due</i>	

Week 2

Jan. 21	Supply and Demand (Chapter 2)
Jan. 23	Supply and Demand (Chapter 2)
<i>Due</i>	

Week 3

Jan. 28	Gross Domestic Product: A Measure of Economic Output (Chapter 3)
Jan. 30	Gross Domestic Product: A Measure of Economic Output (Chapter 3)
<i>Due</i>	Homework #1 Due Friday, Jan. 31 at 11:59pm

Week 4

Feb. 4	Measuring the Cost of Living: Inflation (Chapter 4)
Feb. 6	Measuring the Cost of Living: Inflation (Chapter 4)
<i>Due</i>	

Week 5

Feb. 11	The Production Possibility Frontier and the Rationale for Trade (Chapter 5)
Feb. 13	The Production Possibility Frontier and the Rationale for Trade (Chapter 5)
<i>Due</i>	Homework #2 Due Friday, Feb. 14 at 11:59pm

Week 6

Feb. 18	The Production Possibility Frontier and the Rationale for Trade (Chapter 5) <i>Exam Review</i>
Feb. 20	Midterm #1 (Covers Ch. 1-4)
<i>Due</i>	

Week 7

Feb. 25	Globalization: Definitions and Measures (Chapter 6)
Feb. 27	No class
<i>Due</i>	

Week 8

Mar. 4	Globalization: Some Major Agents (Chapter 7)
Mar. 6	Globalization: Some Major Agents (Chapter 7)
<i>Due</i>	Homework #3 Due Friday, Mar. 7 at 11:59pm

Week 9

Mar. 11	Global Trade in Goods and Services (Chapter 8)
Mar. 13	Global Trade in Goods and Services (Chapter 8) [Virtual Class on WebEx]
<i>Due</i>	

Week 10: Spring Break**Week 11**

Mar. 25	Regulating International Trade (Chapter 9)
Mar. 27	Regulating International Trade (Chapter 9)
<i>Due</i>	Homework #4 Due Friday, Mar. 28 at 11:59pm

Week 12

Apr. 1	Regulating International Trade (Chapter 9) <i>Exam Review</i>
Apr. 3	Midterm #2 (Covers Ch. 5-8)
<i>Due</i>	

Week 13

Apr. 8	Trade Agreements and Economic Integration (Chapter 10)
Apr. 10	Trade Agreements and Economic Integration (Chapter 10)
<i>Due</i>	

Week 14

Apr. 15	Foreign Exchange Markets and Exchange Rates (Chapter 12)
Apr. 17	Foreign Exchange Markets and Exchange Rates (Chapter 12)
<i>Due</i>	

Week 15

Apr. 22	Foreign Exchange Markets and Exchange Rates (Chapter 12)
Apr. 24	Further Topics in Global Economics: 2008 Financial Crisis <i>Final Exam Review</i>
<i>Due</i>	Homework #5 Due Friday, Apr. 25 at 11:59pm

Final Exam: Thursday, May 1st from 1:30-4:00pm in Aderhold 5. Covers Ch. 1-10, 12 (cumulative).