

Syllabus for AREC 415: International Agricultural Trade

Instructor Information

Instructors Names:	Stephen Davies Amanda Leister Amalia Davies Solomon Geleta, TA
Office Hours:	Davies: 9 – 11 am Monday/Thursday Leister: 2-4 pm Monday/ Wednesday Geleta : 1:30 - 2:30 pm Monday/Wednesday 11 am - 12 pm Tuesday/Thursday
Phone:	Davies: 970-491-5706 Leister: 970-491-2399 Geleta: 970-310-1272
Email:	Use RamCT Blackboard <i>Messages</i> tool or stephen.davies@colostate.edu or (Responses to email will be provided within 36 hours during weekdays.)

Course Description: The course is AREC 415, International Agricultural Trade. As described in the General Catalog, the course covers “Agricultural trade patterns and institutions; trade theory with applications to agriculture. Current issues in agricultural trade.”

Agricultural trade patterns are influenced by three main factors, including general economic growth and macroeconomic performance, comparative advantage, and trade and domestic agricultural policies in various countries. Thus, this course develops the relevant economic theories and empirical examples for these factors. Significant issues in agricultural trade are also examined, and include issues such as phyto-sanitary and sanitary regulations (SPS), issues with GMOs, and the effects of trade on development in less developed countries.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites: Pre-requisites include ECON 204, Introduction to Macroeconomics and AREC 310, Agricultural Marketing. These can be concurrent, transferred, or other equivalent courses can be counted.

Course Goals: Upon the completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. To identify the current agricultural trade patterns, issues and selected macroeconomic and institutional problems.
2. To formulate and explain the implications of major theories of international trade
3. To be able to use the above skills to analyze the benefits, costs and politics of agricultural trade.
4. Students will integrate the experience in this course into a general analytical capability by linking the tools of analysis, issues and actual, empirical, analyses.

Required Text

Steven S. Suranovic International Economics Theory and Policy ISBN: 978-1-4533-1771-6. You might can buy the book online and download it as a PDF to read offline, or print it out (\$34.95 for the whole book or \$2.49 each chapter), and/or you can also upload it into your iPad, Kindle, nook or Sony Reader (\$34.95). This is called the All Access Pass and is available on the following link:

<http://students.flatworldknowledge.com/course/1040767>

Some of the things you will be able to do are:

- Download eBook formats compatible with a Kindle, nook, iPad or similar device
- Print at home with a single click
- Use interactive study aids online that include flash cards and quizzes for each chapter
- On the run or in the car? Listen to audio downloadable to an iPod or MP3 player

Get answers to many common questions in the course link. If you still can't find the answer, contact Flatworld via email at faculty@flatworldknowledge.com or give them a call at 877-257-9243. They are available Mon – Fri from 9AM to 5PM EST. Please let Dr. Davies know about issues that arise.

Course Presentation and Procedures

Organization of content and schedule:

As shown in the table below, this course is comprised of eight modules, which last from one to three weeks, and include lectures, readings, videos, other learning activities and graded assignments (where the specific readings and other activities are listed in the associated Learning Modules).

After an introduction and overview (Module 1), three weeks are spent on topics which like the balance of payments and exchange rate determination, which are essentially based on macroeconomic factors. This is completed with a review of selected historical aspects and institutions such as the IMF, World Bank and other players in the world financial system. (Module 3). There are two quizzes, a paper and the first midterm covering the topics in Modules 1-3.

The course then turns to the main theories associated with international trade, which starts with comparative advantage, including Ricardian and Heckscher Ohlin approaches, and then goes into a brief examination of more recent theories (Module 4). These show the winners, losers and overall gains from trade under different assumptions. In Module 5, a review of the market fundamentals of supply and demand and some examples of current trends are given, and then the partial equilibrium trade model is developed to show the impacts on international agricultural trade of various trends and government policies. The final two quizzes, the second paper and midterm cover these topics.

AREC415 Agriculture Trade: Fall 2012

Module	Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments*	Due Dates
1	Week 1	Aug 20- Aug. 24	The World Food System and International Agricultural Trade		
2	Weeks 2 – 4	Aug. 27 - Sept 14	Overview of Macroeconomic Theory and International Finance	Quiz 1 Paper 1 - assigned	Sept. 10 Sept. 21
3	Week 5	Sept 17 - Sept 21	Macroeconomic History and Institutions related to Ag Trade	Quiz 2	Sept. 26
Midterm Exam	Week 6	Sept. 24 - Sept. 28	Review	Midterm Exam 1	Oct. 3
4	Weeks 7 – 8	Oct. 1 - Oct. 12	The Theory of Comparative Advantage and New Trade Theory	Paper 1 Due	Oct. 12
5	Week 9 - 10	Oct. 15 - Oct. 26	International Agricultural Market Fundamentals and the Partial Equilibrium Trade Model	Paper 2 - assigned Quiz 3	Oct. 19 Oct. 19
6	Weeks 11 - 12	Oct. 29 - Nov. 9	Government Intervention and the Partial Equilibrium Trade Model	Paper 2 Due Quiz 4	Nov. 9 Nov. 9
7	Week 13	Nov. 12 - Nov. 16	Multilateral Trade Negotiations: The World Trade Organization, its history, current issues and controversies	Midterm Exam 2 Paper 3 - assigned	Nov. 14 Nov. 16
8	Weeks 14 – 15	Nov. 26 - Dec. 7	Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs), Sanitary and Phyto- sanitary Measures, GMOs, Animal Diseases, Aid and Trade	Paper 3 Due	Dec. 14
Final Exam	Week 16	Dec. 10 - Dec. 14		Final Exam	Dec. 12 11:50 a – 1:50 p

*All Modules have reading and viewing assignments that can be found in the individual folders in the Learning Modules in RamCt.

The final two modules, 7 and 8, look at the results of multilateral trade negotiations and the main institutions, the GATT and WTO that govern the rules of international agricultural trade, and some current issues in agricultural trade. The third paper and final exam are related mostly to these topics.

Grading

There is a total of 1,000 points for this course, comprised of the following:

Assignment*	Grade Points	Grade Percentage
Four Quizzes (40 points each)	160	16
Two Midterm Exams (210 points each)	410	42
Final Exam	160	16.5
Three Short Papers (85 points each)	255	25.5
Total:	1,000	100%

*Keep a copy of all work created for the course, including work submitted through RamCT Blackboard.

Assignment Details

The class assignments consist of quizzes, exams, short papers and discussions that are worth the amounts in the Grading table above. Also, the content in each is outlined in the Course Presentation and Procedures section above. The uses of each area of assessment are elaborated here. First, the *quizzes* are used to test selected concepts that are more difficult and students benefit from exposure prior to an exam or are to be examined only once. They are designed to be a low cost way to gain capability in various concepts, as in aggregate they are only worth 16% of the grade.

The *exams* are the major evaluation tool used in the class and each covers roughly one third of the material, with some additional revisiting of important concepts. The *papers* are used to let students explore areas of their interest in some more depth and learn more about the real world setting and issues that are found in international agricultural trade. Like the exams, they are related to each part of the class, and about one third of the class is covered in each. The first paper will address macro issues and trends, while the second will let students examine issues related to individual commodity trends and/or policies. The third paper will allow you to look at one of the final issues in more detail than we cover in class.

Participation Expectations

Lectures from the on campus class will be posted within six hours after they have been delivered in class, and these will take about three hours per week of viewing and note taking. There are also readings, quizzes, videos and discussions which will take about another four - six hours per week, for a total of about eight hours each week. Many weeks will have added exam study or you will be writing papers, which will add time to the course. It is of course expected that you participate fully in all of these activities.

There are several added study guides and reviews in which you can [participate. There will be a review sheet created for each test which can be used in a chat session and in discussions among your fellow students. Also, rubrics will be included as part of each paper. It will be useful to read these rubrics carefully to do the best on all three papers.

Grading Process

The grading in this class will include Pluses and Minuses except for the grades that are lower than a C, where only D+, D and F grades will be given (as required by Faculty Council, which do not allow grades of C- or D-. The break points for each grade are shown in the table below. Therefore, if your overall percentage at the end of the semester is 90% you will be guaranteed at least A-, 80% will be a B-, and above 70 will be a C etc. The instructor further will look for significant breaks in the final distribution to make the ending determination of grades. For example, if the grades that are clustered around 90% are 90.13, 89.92, 89.65 and 88.73, the first three would be given an A- and the last one a B+. This type of review will be done across the distribution and will always be to the benefit of students who are close to the margin.

90% = A-	80% = B-	70% = C
60% = D	Less than 60% = F	

Make Up Policies

Policy on Papers, and Quizzes: The three short papers are due before midnight of the day on the due date. You can submit the assignments within two days after the due date with a 5 percent penalty and any time before they are returned to the class with a 10 percent penalty. A paper submitted after these deadlines will receive a grade of 65 percent until one month after the original due date, when it will no longer be accepted. Quizzes and exams can be taken outside of the open time period established on RamCt only with an excused absence before the date of the quiz.

Academic Integrity Policy and Academic Misconduct Procedures

Statement of Compliance:

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policies and Guiding Principles as found in the General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code.

At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

AREC 415 International Agricultural Trade Academic Integrity Policy:

The quizzes and exams for this class will be proctored and it is expected that you do not look at other's tests during that time. The tests will typically be closed book and you will not interact with any other students during the test. All electronic communications devices, such as cell phones and I pads, will need to be in the Off position and stored in your pack back or other remote locations. It is expected and encouraged that you study in groups and prepare for these evaluations together but this of course does not extend to the exams and quizzes themselves.

One of the main challenges in today's electronic environment is to know the appropriate use of sources and how to avoid plagiarism in paper writing when it is all too easy to lift words and ideas from others. Do not start with text directly from an Internet source, but rather summarize all ideas in your own words. Text in papers that does not seem consistent with the student's writing style may be subjected to Internet searches, so please be careful in this regard.

Plagiarism is the unauthorized or unacknowledged use of another person's academic or scholarly work. Regardless of how it occurs, plagiarism is a theft of intellectual property and a violation of an ironclad rule demanding "credit be given where credit is due." More on this topic can be found at Writing Guides: Understanding Plagiarism at the website below. Please familiarize yourself with this topic.

<http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/researchsources/understandingplagiarism/plagiarismoverview.cfm>.

AREC 415, International Agricultural Trade and CSU Honor Pledge:

The in class quizzes and exams for this class will not require an honor statement. It is expected and encouraged that you study in groups and prepare for these evaluations together. The in-class tests will typically be closed book and you will not interact with any other students during the test. All electronic communications devices, such as cell phones and I pads, will need to be in the Off position and stored in your pack back or other remote locations. The honor pledge shall be used whenever a test or quiz is taken outside of class. The honor pledge shall include one of the following statements, depending on the situation:

HONOR PLEDGE: I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance.

HONOR PLEDGE: I will not give, receive, or use any unauthorized assistance.

Usually, the student will be asked to write out the pledge and sign it, but may also be given the opportunity to include an honor pledge with electronic submissions. Note: a student's decision to forego signing the honor pledge shall not be used as evidence of academic misconduct and shall not negatively impact a student's grade.