

# ECON 2180 Syllabus

Summer, 2020

Instructor: Professor Joseph Pelzman

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Office: Monroe 319

Virtual Office Hours: By Appointment

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## Instructor Response Time

I will respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays and on the next business day over weekends and holidays.

I will return assignments within one week.

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## Course Description

Economics 2180 is a one-semester international economics course that covers the basic concepts of international trade and international finance. Students are presumed to have successfully completed Principles of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics.

The first half of the course focuses on international trade topics. These include the effects of trade on an economy, the economic consequences of protectionism and the institutional and legal structures of international trade in goods and services. The second half of the course focuses on international financial issues. These include the determination of exchange rates, international capital flows, balance of payments accounts and fixed versus flexible exchange rate regimes.

Please note that this course is primarily designed for Elliott School undergraduate students seeking to satisfy their international economics requirement, though other students are certainly welcome. Economics majors should note that only two of the following courses can be counted towards the 100-level economics course requirements: Econ 2180, 2181, and 2182.

## Course Objectives

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By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Analyze why countries trade. [Modules 1, 2]
- Identify the most popular models used to explain international trade. [Module 2]
- Evaluate the use of tariff and non-tariff measures. [Module 3]
- Discuss the concept of an open macro economy. [Modules 4, 5, 6]
- Analyze the relationship between money, interest, the change rates, and the price levels. [Modules 5, 6]
- Analyze macroeconomic policy in a world with both floating and fixed exchange rates. [Module 6]

## Prerequisites

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### Academic

The academic prerequisite for this course is successful completion of Principles of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics.

### Technological

As a learner in an online course, you need to ensure you have the required technology and skills to fully participate. Please consult the [GW Online website](#) for further information.

You should be able to:

- Use a personal computer and its peripherals.
- Download and install any software needed for the course.
- Use email and other communication tools with attachments.
- Access your GW email for university-related communications (see [Office of the Registrar website](#)).
- Use word processing and other productivity software to submit assignments.
- Use web conferencing tools to collaborate with other course participants.
- Use your computer to upload documents, recordings, and images.
- Seek technology help by contacting [GW Information Technology](#) (202-994-4948) or [ithelp@gwu.edu](mailto:ithelp@gwu.edu).

If you have any problems with the software in this course, please reference the Technology Help link in the left navigation menu in our course on Blackboard.

## Textbooks & Materials

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You can find the textbook at the GW Bookstore or other online retailers.

Sawyer, W. C. & Sprinkle, R.L. (2020). *Applied International Economics*.  
Routledge. 5th Edition. (ISBN-13: 978-1138388451 or ISBN-10: 1138388459)

## Credit Hour Policy

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Summer courses are more than twice as intensive as those held during the academic year. Over 6 weeks, students will spend 6 hours per week engaging in direct instruction (recorded course videos, and discussion exercises) and 12.75 hours per week doing independent learning, including, but not limited to, readings, assignments and course exams. This amounts to 36 hours of direct-instruction and 76.5 hours independent coursework.

## Methods of Instruction and Assessment

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**Brief description of content structure:** This is a six week, fully online course. Each week we'll complete one module. Each week contains readings, lectures, a reading summary exercise, and an exam. Weeks 1, 3, and 5 also contain a discussion board activity. In week 6, you will complete a final exam. All weekly exams and the final are given over the weekend. The weekly tests will become available on Saturday at 9 AM ET and stay open until 11PM ET on that Sunday.

This course uses the following methods of instruction and assessment. Their overarching purpose is to provide opportunities for active learning and skills development, which will support you in achieving course objectives.

### Methods of Instruction

- **Lectures:** Lectures and interviews have been recorded for specific topics and are provided within each weekly module. You will view several videos each week, which provide the background and perspectives needed to complete the course assignment and activities successfully. You are encouraged to pause the lecture/interview videos to read or review linked objects, which are intended to enhance learning on the topic. You may start and stop the videos and return to previous videos to review them as often as you wish.
- **Readings:** Textbook chapters will be assigned each week. Just as with the videos, readings have been carefully selected to provide you with the grounding needed to participate in course activities and successfully complete assignments. You will be responsible for completing a reading summary each week, so it is important that you read the text closely.

## Methods of Assessment

- **Discussion Board:** In week 1, students will introduce themselves to the class via a discussion board post. In week 4, students will participate in a discussion forum that analyzes and synthesizes the weekly readings and lectures. Students will respond to specific questions and engage in class discussions that will reveal thoughtful analysis of each text. For each work, students must comment on at least two classmates' writings.
- **Weekly Reading Summaries:** Weekly lecture videos will provide a holistic overview of important course content. Therefore, students will read assigned text each week to ensure that features additional material related to weekly topics. The purpose of the reading summaries is to provide students with a place to reflect on what they have read each week. The content of the weekly summaries will not be evaluated; rather, students will be graded on the completion of the assignment. Further grading criteria will be provided in the weekly modules.
- **Calculating Tariffs Assignment:** This exercise will give you a better sense of the value of dutiable imports, the taxes charged, and the unit price (learning objectives 2 and 6). Using the data tables you produce, you will compare it to retail prices to get a sense of tariff mark-up. You will then analyze the concept of market prices and trade products.
- **Weekly Exams:** Please complete the final exam in one sitting. All exams include multiple choice, fill in the blank, data manipulations, and short answer. There are 40 questions for each weekly exam. The exams are timed and will be atomically submitted after one hour. Given the nature of this online course, there are no special and differential treatments available. You are responsible for ensuring all the technical specifications-- computer, Internet, etc.-- are available at your location. All weekly exams and the final are given over the weekend. The weekly tests will become available on Saturday at 9 AM ET and stay open until 11PM ET on that Sunday.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam will be cumulative and will cover the material for the last week and will last 2 hours. The final exam will become available on Saturday at 9 AM ET and stay open until 11PM ET on Sunday. Notice that we are one day past the end of the semester. Please complete the final exam in one sitting. All exams include multiple choice, fill in the blank, data manipulations, and short answer. There are 100 questions for the two-hour final exam. The final exam is timed and will be atomically submitted after two hours. Given the nature of this online course, there are no special and differential treatments available. You are

responsible for ensuring all the technical specifications-- computer, Internet, etc.-  
- are available at your location.

## Academic Integrity

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This course will comply with [the University's Code of Student Conduct](#). The Code of Academic Integrity defines academic dishonesty as "cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's work, taking credit for work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information." Common examples of academic dishonesty include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, falsification, forgery of University academic documents, and facilitating academic dishonesty by others.

Consult GW's [Academic Dishonesty Prevention resource](#) for further information and support.

## Grading

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This course uses the following grading schema.

Assignment Type	Point Value Per Assignment	Number of Assignments	Total Percent of Final Grade
Weekly Reading Summaries	100	6	10%
Discussion Boards	100	2	10%
Calculating Tariffs Assignment	100	1	10%
Weekly Exams	100	5	40%
Final Exam	100	1	30%

Total Percent: 100%

The grading scale below determines your final letter grade.

- 93 - 100 = A
- 90 - 92 = A-
- 87 - 89 = B+
- 83 - 86 = B
- 80 - 82 = B-
- 77 - 79 = C+
- 73 - 76 = C
- 70 - 72 = C-
- 67 - 69 = D+
- 63 - 66 = D

- 60 - 62 = D-
- Less than 60 = F

## Late Work

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In general, late work will not be accepted. The only exception is for unusual circumstances such as students' illness (with doctor's note) or other emergencies such as death in the family.

## Incomplete Grades

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### Undergraduate students

Incomplete grades may be given to undergraduate students only if for reasons beyond the student's control (such as medical or family emergencies) s/he is unable to complete the final work of the course. Faculty should not assign an Incomplete grade if not asked by the student.

A contract must be signed by the instructor and the student and filed in the department office. A copy should be submitted to the Academic Advising office in Phillips 107. A student has up to a calendar year to finish the coursework for the class, and when completed a grade change form must be submitted to the Academic Advising office to update the grade.

For further policy and contract information for undergraduate students, please consult with your advisor and also visit the website for [Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Academic Advising](#).

## Netiquette

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Please observe the following rules of netiquette for communicating online:

- Remain professional, respectful, and courteous at all times.
- Remember that a real human being wrote each post and will read what you write in response. It is easy to misinterpret discussion posts. Let's give the benefit of the doubt.
- If you have a strong opinion on a topic, it is acceptable to express it as long as it is not phrased as an attack. Please be gracious with differing opinions.
- When upset, wait a day or two prior to posting. Messages posted (or emailed) in anger are often regretted later.

- Proofread and use the spell check tool when you type a post. It makes the post easier to read and helps your readers understand what you are saying.

I reserve the right to delete any post that is deemed inappropriate for the discussion forum, blog, or wiki without prior notification to the student. This includes any post containing language that is offensive, rude, profane, racist, or hateful. Posts that are seriously off-topic or serve no purpose other than to vent frustration will also be removed.

## Course Outline

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Below is a list of the major due dates in this course. Detailed assignment instructions are posted in Blackboard. These due dates are subject to revision based on class progress.

Date Due	Week	Assignment
Wednesday	Week 1	Weekly Reading Summary
Thursday	Week 1	Discussion Board: Initial Post
Sunday	Week 1	Discussion Board: Peer Responses
Sunday	Week 1	Exam due
Wednesday	Week 2	Weekly Reading Summary
Sunday	Week 2	Exam due
Wednesday	Week 3	Weekly Reading Summary
Sunday	Week 3	Exam due
Wednesday	Week 4	Weekly Reading Summary
Thursday	Week 4	Discussion Board: Initial Post
Sunday	Week 4	Discussion Board: Peer Responses
Sunday	Week 4	Exam due
Wednesday	Week 5	Weekly Reading Summary
Sunday	Week 5	Exam due
Wednesday	Week 6	Weekly Reading Summary
Sunday	Week 6	Final Exam due

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## Policies

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The following are university- and course-related policies that all course participants should read and understand. Please contact me if you have any questions.

### Differences in Time Zone

All the times in this Blackboard course correspond to U.S. Eastern Time zone (e.g., Washington, DC). It is your responsibility to convert these times to the time zone of your location so you can meet this course's deadlines.

### Inclement Weather

Please note that online courses at the George Washington University will continue to be held even when the University is closed for inclement weather.

### Disability Support Services and Accessibility

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the [Office of Disability Support Services](#) (DSS) to inquire about the documentation necessary to establish eligibility, and to coordinate a plan of reasonable and appropriate accommodations. DSS is located in Rome Hall, Suite 102. For additional information, please call DSS at 202-994-8250, or consult <https://disabilitysupport.gwu.edu>.

For information about how the course technology is accessible to all learners, see the following resources:

- [Blackboard accessibility policy](#)
- [Kaltura \(video platform\) accessibility policy](#)
- [Microsoft Office accessibility policy](#)
- [Adobe accessibility policy](#)

### Religious Observances

In accordance with University policy, students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on the day(s) of religious observance. Please consult [the university policy on religious holiday observance](#) for further information.

### Acceptable Use Policy for Computing Systems and Services

All members of the George Washington University must read and comply with the [Acceptable Use Policy](#) when accessing and using computing systems and services,



including email and Blackboard. Please read the [Acceptable Use Policy](#) to familiarize yourself with how GW systems are to be used ethically.

## Sharing of Course Content

Unauthorized downloading, distributing, or sharing of any part of a recorded lecture or course materials, as well as using provided information for purposes other than the student's own learning may be deemed a violation of GW's Student Conduct Code.

## Use of Student Work (FERPA)

The professor will use academic work that you complete during this semester for educational purposes in this course during this semester. Your registration and continued enrollment constitute your consent.

## Copyright Policy Statement

Copyright Restriction: Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection under Title 17 of the United States Code. Under certain Fair Use circumstances specified by law, copies may be made for private study, scholarship, or research. Electronic copies should not be shared with unauthorized users. If a user fails to comply with Fair Use restrictions, he/she may be liable for copyright infringement. For more information, see the [GW Copyright Policy](#) and [Fair Use guidelines](#).

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

The University has asked all faculty to inform students of these procedures, prepared by the [GW Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management](#) in collaboration with the Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

## To Report an Emergency or Suspicious Activity

Call the University Police Department at 202-994-6111 (Foggy Bottom) or 202-242-6111 (Mount Vernon).

## Shelter in Place - General Guidance

Although it is unlikely that we will ever need to shelter in place, it is helpful to know what to do just in case. No matter where you are, the basic steps of shelter in place will generally remain the same.

- If you are inside, stay where you are unless the building you are in is affected. If it is affected, you should evacuate. If you are outdoors, proceed into the closest building or follow instructions from emergency personnel on the scene.
- Locate an interior room to shelter inside. If possible, it should be above ground level and have the fewest number of windows. If sheltering in a room with

windows, move away from the windows. If there is a large group of people inside a particular building, several rooms may be necessary.

- Shut and lock all windows (for a tighter seal) and close exterior doors.
- Turn off air conditioners, heaters, and fans. Close vents to ventilation systems as you are able. (University staff will turn off ventilation systems as quickly as possible).
- Make a list of the people with you and ask someone to call the list in to UPD so they know where you are sheltering and who is with you. If only students are present, one of the students should call in the list.
- Await further instructions. If possible, visit GW Campus Advisories for incident updates or call the GW Information Line 202-994-5050.
- Make yourself comfortable and look after one other. You will get word as soon as it is safe to come out.

### Evacuation

An evacuation will be considered if the building we are in is affected or we must move to a location of greater safety. We will always evacuate if the fire alarm sounds. In the event of an evacuation, please gather your personal belongings quickly (purse, keys, GWorld card, etc.) and proceed to the nearest exit. Every classroom has a map at the door designating both the shortest egress and an alternate egress. Anyone who is physically unable to walk down the stairs should wait in the stairwell, behind the closed doors. Firemen will check the stairwells upon entering the building.

Once you have evacuated the building, proceed to our primary rendezvous location: the courtyard area between the GW Hospital and Ross Hall. In the event that this location is unavailable, we will meet on the ground level of the Visitors Parking Garage (I Street entrance, at 22nd Street). From our rendezvous location, we will await instructions to re-enter the School.

### Alert DC

Alert DC provides free notification by e-mail or text message during an emergency. Visit [GW Campus Advisories](#) for a link and instructions on how to sign up for alerts pertaining to GW. If you receive an Alert DC notification during class, you are encouraged to share the information immediately.

### GW Alert

GW Alert provides popup notification to desktop and laptop computers during an emergency. In the event that we receive an alert to the computer in our classroom, we will follow the instructions given. You are also encouraged to download this application to your personal computer. Visit [GW Campus Advisories](#) to learn how.

**Additional Information**

Additional information about emergency preparedness and response at GW or the University's operating status can be found on [GW Campus Advisories](#) or by calling the GW Information Line at 202-994-5050.