



Grande Prairie Regional College
School of Business
Department of Business Administration and Commerce
ECN 401: 3 (3-0-0) the Changing Global Economy
Course Outline

Athabasca University in partnership with Grande Prairie Regional College

Economics 401 (ECN 401) The Changing Global Economy Fall 2010

Course Outline (subject to change) (Aug. 11, 2010)

Instructor: Charles A. Backman

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Class times: Tuesday: 18:00 – 20:50

Location: TBA

Dates: September 7 – December 8

Overview

ECN 401 examines the economic, social, and institutional changes that have occurred as a result of the integration of economic regions into a single global entity. The views of a wide range of prominent economists, historians, and management theorists are explored to better understand the “new global economy” and the effects of globalization.

Prerequisite: an introductory economics course or permission of instructor.

Course objectives

Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to answer the following major questions:

- What is globalization and what forces drive globalization?
- Why is there trade and investment between nations?
- How do foreign exchange rates and the international monetary system work?
- How is globalization affecting less developed countries?
- In this era of globalization, what are the viable public policy options for national governments?

Textbooks

There is one required textbook for the course:

Hill, C. W. L. (2009). *International business: Competing in the global marketplace* (7th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill/Irwin.

There is one required reading package for this course:

Athabasca University, *the Changing global economy*, Reading file for Economics 401 (Edmonton: Athabasca University), 2009

Other required readings are available in the Athabasca University Digital Reading Room identified for this course.

<http://sb.athabascau.ca/course/Econ401v2.nsf>

Student rights and responsibilities

1. Regular attendance is expected. Students who miss class are responsible for getting notes, assignments, etc. from classmates.
2. The instructor is available for consultation during regular scheduled office hours.
3. In order to contribute usefully to class discussions, students are expected to have done the required readings before class.
4. Students are expected to be respectful of the opinions of others, and to ensure that all members of the class have reasonable opportunity to voice opinions and participate in discussions.
5. The students and instructor in this course are governed by the academic policies in the Athabasca University Calendar. Students should be familiar with Section 12: Student Code of Conduct and Right to Appeal.
6. **Plagiarism:** Students shall not submit words, ideas, images or data of another person as their own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, research, project or assignment in a course or program of study. Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offences that will be dealt with severely in this course.

Evaluation

To receive credit for ECN 401, the student must achieve a composite course grade of at least 50 percent and a grade of at least 50 percent on the final exam.

Assignments words in Microsoft Word)	40%	After Units 1, 2, 3 and 4 (200 to 250
Assignment Five (Final Essay)	20%	After Unit 6 (2000 to 2600 words)
Final exam	40%	After Assignment 5

Note:

Assignments submitted late by no more than one week will be penalized 10%. Assignments that are overdue by more than one week will not be accepted unless prior arrangement has been made with the instructor.

All assignments are to be submitted through the AU Assignment Drop Box for this course.

Course syllabus

The following is a tentative schedule, followed by specific reading assignments for each unit.

Week number	WEEK Class takes place on Tuesday evenings	COMMENTS	LESSON	TOPICS	READINGS
1	August 31	All business classes at GPRC begin Sept. 2 (Thursday.) The first class for this course is September 7			
2	Sept. 7	Labour Day – Mon. Sept. 6 is a holiday	1. Course introduction 2. Begin Unit 1.	1. Review course outline and expectations, 2. Review material available from AU 3. The meaning of globalization	Refer to the AU reading package for this course
3	Sept. 14		Finish Unit 1	1. The meaning of globalization (cont'd)	Refer to the AU reading package for this course
4	Sept. 21	<u>Complete Assignment 1 (Due Tuesday, Sept. 21)</u>	Start Unit 2	1. Trade and globalization.	Refer to the AU reading package for this course
5	Sept. 28		Finish Unit 2	1. Trade and globalization (cont'd).	Refer to the AU reading package for this course

6	Oct. 5	<u>Complete Assignment 2 (Due Tuesday, Oct. 5)</u>	Start Unit 3	1. Foreign direct investment.	Refer to the AU reading package for this course
7	Oct. 12	Thanksgiving Monday Oct. 11 is a holiday	Finish Unit 3	1. Foreign direct investment (cont'd)	Refer to the AU reading package for this course
8	Oct. 19	<u>Complete Assignment 3 (Due Tuesday, Oct. 19)</u>	Start Unit 4	1. The global monetary system.	Refer to the AU reading package for this course
9	Oct. 26		Finish Unit 4	1. The global monetary system (cont'd).	Refer to the AU reading package for this course
10	Nov. 2	<u>Complete Assignment 4 (Due Tuesday, Nov. 2)</u>	Start Unit 5	1. Globalization and less developed countries..	Refer to the AU reading package for this course
11	Nov. 9	Nov. 11/12 Fall Break/Rememberance	Finish Unit 5	1. Globalization and less developed countries (cont'd).	Refer to the AU reading package for this course
12	Nov. 16		Start Unit 6	1. Globalization and public policy.	Refer to the AU reading package for this course
13	Nov. 23		Finish Unit 6	1. Globalization and public policy (cont'd).	Refer to the AU reading package for this course

14	Nov. 30	<u>Complete Assignment 5 (Due Tuesday, Nov. 30)</u>	Spill-over & Wrap-up		Refer to the AU reading package for this course
15	Dec. 7		Review for final	Review for final exam	
EXAM		TBD			

Reading assignments as per website and digital reading room

For your information and completeness for this course outline, I have pasted below the assigned readings from the DRR. These are current as of August 7, 2010. Every effort will be made to apprise you of changes. However, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have read the assigned readings as per the AU DRR for this course.

Unit 1: The meaning of globalization;

[Bhagwati, Jagdish. Coping with Antiglobalization. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2002.](#)

Online article

Globalization is doomed to controversy thanks to a trio of misapprehensions. The opposition stems more from nostalgia and sterile theory than from economic reality.

Video clip: "Making Globalization Work" by Joseph Stiglitz, 42 minutes

- To access this video, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzhD7KVs-R4

Available in the course website (Unit 1: The Meaning of Globalization - Section 1.2: National Differences in Political Economy)

Unit 2: Trade and Globalization;

[King, Rachel. The New Economics of Outsourcing. *Business Week Online*, April 7, 2008.](#)

Online article

As outsourcing to India becomes more expensive, North American companies are more inclined to "nearshore," keeping work in the Western Hemisphere, where they can operate in a closer time zone.

[Blinder, Alan S. Offshoring: The Next Industrial Revolution? *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2006.](#)

Online article

This article discusses the effects of offshoring, the migration of jobs from wealthy countries to poor countries. The information age marks a third industrial revolution, where the easy flow of information has expanded the scope of tradeable services.

[Drezner, Daniel. The Outsourcing Bogeyman. *Foreign Affairs*, May/June, 2004.](#)

Online article

When a presidential election year coincides with an uncertain economy, campaigning politicians invariably invoke an international economic issue as a dire threat to the well-being of Americans. This year (2004) the issue is offshore outsourcing.

Unit 3: Foreign Direct Investment

[Worldbeater, Inc. *The Economist*, November 22, 1997.](#)

Online article

Examines the role multinational corporations play in integrating the world's economies.

Unit 4: The global monetary system

NO ASSIGNED READINGS AT THIS TIME

Unit 5: Globalization and the less developed countries

[Bhagwati, Jagdish. The Capital Myth: The Difference Between Trade in Widgets and Dollars. *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 1998.](#)

Online article

In the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis, the mainstream view that dominates policy circles is that despite the striking evidence of the inherently crisis-prone nature of freer capital movements, a world of full capital mobility continues to be inevitable and immensely desirable

Unit 6: Globalization and public policy

[The Heart of the Matter. *The Economist*, May 13, 2000.](#)

Online article

Africa's biggest problems stem from its present leaders. But they were created by African society and history.

Supplementary Materials;

[Friedman, Thomas. A Crisis of Legitimacy. *The Economist*, September 29, 2001.](#)

Online article

Questions whether globalization limits the political process, as argued by Thomas Friedman's "Golden Straitjacket" theory. Focuses on the impact of globalization, or economic integration, on democracy and public welfare.