

AGEC 335: International Agricultural Trade Syllabus, Fall 2021

University of Tennessee at Martin

Instructor: Anthony R. Delmond, PhD
Office: 143 Brehm Hall
Phone: (731) 881-1098
Email: adelmond@utm.edu
Website: <https://utm.instructure.com/courses/26887>

Class Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2:00-2:50 p.m., Johnson EPS 204
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 p.m. (see below), or by appointment
Credits: 3.0
Prerequisites: AGECE 110 or ECON 202

Course Description:

This course will cover topics in international trade, encompassing but not limited to agricultural goods and services. We will work at a fairly high conceptual level, often using formal economic models to gain insight into the effects of international economic integration and policies. In particular, we will examine international flows of goods, labor, capital, and financial assets in the increasingly globalized world economy.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

The primary objective of this course is to provide students with the rationale behind the development of agricultural and general trade policies. This will allow them to perform better analyses and to make more informed evaluations of international policy. Upon successful completion of the course, students should have a strong working knowledge of:

- the basic terminology of international economics;
- international economic data and current international affairs;
- economic theory and the models employed in international trade and policy analysis;
- the effects of labor and capital migration; and
- the purpose and value of international agreements.

Course Resources:

Some components of this course are online. Students need access to a reliable computer, internet, document processing software, speakers, etc.

Recommended Materials:

Text: *International Trade*, 4th Edition. Robert C. Feenstra and Alan M. Taylor. Macmillan/Worth Publishers, 2018.

International Trade: Theory and Policy, 11th Edition. Paul R. Krugman, Maurice Obstfeldt, and Marc Melitz. Pearson, 2018.

Additional Materials:

Any other literature/materials distributed throughout the semester is considered required.

Assessments:

Assignments and Participation: There are two assignment types for this course: individual and group assignments. Participation is mandatory for this course, and it will be considered in this section.

Individual Homework Assignments: Assignments will be accessible through Canvas. Each Module will have an associated assignment. These are meant to be completed individually and deadlines will be posted (with reminders in class).

- *CPI:* Each individual student will also develop a Consumer Price Index using a bundle of ten products (prices collected weekly) beginning in Week 2 of the course. This will be something that we will all agree upon in class during the first week, and in addition to this each student will collect weekly price data on their individual agricultural export product each week (see the Research Paper entry below).

Group Assignments: Usually once per week (probably on Fridays), we will have a group assignment to be completed during class time. This is an opportunity for students to work together to build their skills and knowledge while having direct access to the instructor for questions. There will be no make-up group assignments, and only qualifying absences will be excused on group-work days.

Research Paper: In the first week of class, each student will choose one U.S. agricultural export good or service (i.e., an agricultural product that the U.S. trades). The paper should do each of the following:

- Discuss the current trade environment for the product (i.e., who imports the product from the U.S. and what share/value of the product goes to each country, what are the real or potential barriers to trade, etc.).
- Use one of the models discussed in class to explain the trade patterns with any two of the foreign importers. For example, you might discuss how a Ricardian framework clearly explains why China imports U.S. pork while the Heckscher-Ohlin model better describes Philippine-U.S. pork imports.
- Use data and graphics/figures to explain the trade environment, prices, etc. Some of this will come from your own price data collected throughout the semester.

A completed paper should be at least 5 pages in length (excluding figures, tables, references, etc.), typed, 12-point font, and **no more than 1.5-line spacing**. Students must include references for any facts, figures, or general information obtained in researching this topic. This is an individual assignment, so the instructor does not expect to see overlap in these papers (though some topics may be similar). The professor's plagiarism policy is strict. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this or any other assignment, and if discovered it will result in a zero for the course (not just the research paper) and potentially the pursuit of further disciplinary action through the University.

Benchmark #1: Topic Selection. Topics will be selected **via email** in the first week of class on a first-come, first-served basis. Since only one student will research each topic, make sure to choose yours early and be ready with alternatives! **Due: Friday, August 27, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Central.**

Benchmark #2: Research Proposal. This should be a single page (excluding title, name, figures, and references) outlining the agricultural export good you selected, the trading partners you will discuss (two of them that trade with the U.S.), and a brief explanation of current issues surrounding your good/service. In this you should also provide an explanation of price changes between the start of the semester and the proposal deadline. **Due: Friday, October 15, 2021 at 5 p.m. Central.**

Benchmark #3: Rough Draft. This should be a full draft that the instructor can read and make comments for revisions. **Due: Friday, November 12, 2021 at the beginning of class – late drafts will not be accepted.**

Benchmark #4: Presentation. Each student will give a brief presentation of their research. These presentations will be conducted in class, with dates to be assigned/determined toward the middle of the semester.

Benchmark #5: Final Draft. Students should incorporate all the instructor’s comments from the rough draft into the final draft. **Due: Friday, December 3, 2021 at the beginning of class.**

Exams: In this course, there will be three noncumulative exams. Make sure you prepare adequately for all three exams. The format will be discussed prior to each exam.

Tentative Exam Dates:

Exam #1	Friday, September 24, 2021
Exam #2	Wednesday, November 3, 2021
Exam #3	Tuesday, December 7, 12:45-2:45 p.m.

Grading Policy:

Assignments and Participation	35%
Research Paper	25%
Exams	40%

Course grades will be determined using the following scale:

A	90–100%
B	80–89.99%
C	70–79.99%
D	60–69.99%
F	0–59.99%

Scores will be updated on Canvas on a regular basis.

Contacting the Instructor:

Students are encouraged to ask questions in class. This is important as students often have similar questions and this provides the most efficient option for the instructor to answer questions for the entire class. Students may also ask questions by email or through the Canvas Inbox or attend office hours. **If you send an email, please include “AGEC335” in the subject line.** The instructor will usually answer all emails within one business day (unless I am away

from the office). You should try to complete all assignments well in advance of deadlines in case you have questions.

Student Expectations:

Be Prepared: Students are expected to complete any assigned readings (or watch any assigned videos) prior to class. Referring to the readings will give students a better understanding of the course content, will significantly improve performance on assignments, and will make for more active and meaningful classroom discussions.

Be Professional: Each student is expected to be a positive member of and contributor to the class. Students are expected to be courteous and participate in a manner that facilitates a positive learning environment for everyone. Mutual respect and collaborative effort are essential. Regarding professional communication, emails (and written class discussions/communications) should *never* include text-like abbreviations or slang (for example, “LOL”). It is beneficial for you as a student to practice formal communication to better prepare for a professional career. An email should include a salutation or greeting, a body with proper and appropriate grammar, and a signature. Please practice formal communication with other students and certainly with all of your UTM professors!

Be Honest: In addition to the University policies outlined below, I include a comment on honesty. Cheating will not be tolerated in this course. This includes acquiring answers, using “cheat sheets,” cell/smart phones, or providing answers to others during examinations or assigned work, unless otherwise specified by the instructor. Presenting work or ideas of another individual without giving credit and proper documentation is plagiarism. According to Richard L. Saunders from the UTM Paul Meek Library, “Plagiarism is using others’ ideas or words without clearly acknowledging the source. Boiled down, plagiarism means passing off someone else’s work or ideas as your own, whether or not the source is identified. Copying all or part of a Website, document, or presenting an image without a correct citation, constitutes plagiarism.” Consult the following Website if you have questions about plagiarism: <http://www.utm.edu/departments/library/tutorials/plagiarism/>. Cheating or plagiarism is a serious offense. If you are caught cheating in any form you will receive an automatic failing grade for the course and the case will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Instructor Responsibilities:

The instructor agrees to be prepared, professional, respectful, honest, and fair. It is the instructor’s responsibility to ensure that students have the opportunity to gain a clear understanding of the course material and to be fair and consistent in grading. The instructor agrees to be available for additional help and to be conscious of the learning pace of the class (and adapt the pace as necessary). I am here to help you! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need extra assistance.

Office Hours:

Office hours will be conducted either virtually or walking on the Quad, weather permitting. The instructor will begin in front of Brehm Hall at the beginning of office hours and conduct clockwise circuits for the first hour of office hours each day, then return to his office to conduct the remainder of office hours via Zoom. The instructor will also be available by appointment.

COVID-19 Precautions:

This class will adhere to any State and University policies regarding COVID-19 precautions. For example, any University mask policy in effect will be observed in this classroom by students, faculty, and guests. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in removal from the classroom and a referral to the Office of Student Conduct, similar to any other class disruption. Regarding quarantine and coronavirus-related absences, students are responsible for making up all assignments within a reasonable timeframe. Illnesses will follow the normal procedures (doctor's notes, etc.). To ensure you are able to earn all the credit for missed assignments, **keep the instructor informed.**

Disclaimer:

This syllabus may be adjusted during the semester at the instructor's discretion.

University Policies & Resources

Academic Integrity: The University of Tennessee at Martin has chosen as its primary objective quality undergraduate education. Commitment to this objective must include an obligation by all members of the University community to promote and protect the highest standards of integrity in study, research, instruction and evaluation. Dishonesty or unethical behavior does not belong at an institution dedicated to the promotion of knowledge and learning. Integrity of the academic process requires fair and impartial evaluation by faculty and honest academic conduct by students. Specific integrity attributes can be found at:

http://www.utm.edu/departments/conduct/new_academic_integrity.php.

Standard of Conduct: When persons enroll in the University of Tennessee at Martin, they retain the rights and duties of a citizen. Additionally, they must assume the duties and observe the regulations imposed by the University community. Specific conduct attributes can be found at: <http://www.utm.edu/departments/conduct/conduct.php>.

Disability Services: The University of Tennessee provides reasonable accommodations (academic adjustments and auxiliary aids) to ensure equal access to educational content and university programs for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or if you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, notetaking, reading, etc., please speak with the instructor as soon as possible. Students who are eligible for and who request accommodations through the Office of Disability Services must provide instructors with a **letter of accommodation** (sent directly from the Student Success Center). If you need a letter of accommodation for the semester or if you think you may have a learning disability, contact the Office of Disability Services located in the Student Success Center, 203 Clement Hall, (731) 881-7605 (<https://www.utm.edu/departments/disabilities/>).

Emergency Alerts: Though the probability of incurring a campus emergency is minimal, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with various emergency alerts and evacuation procedures in case of emergency. University alerts and guidelines are available at: <https://www.utm.edu/alerts/> (Emergency Response Plan at https://www.utm.edu/_pdfs/Emergency%20Response%20Plan%20-%20Revised%20Dec%202016%20-%20MEDIA%20Version.pdf).

Non-Discrimination Statement: The University of Tennessee at Martin is an equal employment opportunity institution and does not discriminate based upon race, color, or national origin. The University's Office of Equity and Diversity has adopted a policy and procedures to provide students and employees, who feel that they have experienced discrimination but are uncertain as to whether a complaint is justified or whether they wish to initiate a formal complaint, the opportunity to discuss their concerns confidentially and informally with the Equity and Diversity Officer/Title VI Coordinator for prompt and equitable resolution of discrimination complaints.

All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admission without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status, and parental status. In accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the University of Tennessee at Martin affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and this policy extends to employment by the university. Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, and national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), the ADA (disability), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity, 544 University Street, #303, Martin, TN 38238, telephone 731-881-3505. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Equity and Diversity (<https://www.utm.edu/departments/equalopp/>).

Useful Resources:

The **Hortense Parrish Writing Center** (<http://www.utm.edu/departments/writingcenter/>) offers free, non-credit, tutorial instruction to UTM students who need help with any stage of the writing process, including brainstorming, outlining, organization, drafting, revision, research, creative writing, source citation, and grammar. Walk-in and virtual tutoring appointments (via Zoom) are available, so feel free to stop by their office located at 209 Andy Holt Humanities Building, or send them a virtual-tutoring appointment request (owl@utm.edu). Questions can be sent to the same email address or you can call (731) 881-7277.

The Paul Meek Library (<https://www.utm.edu/departments/library/information/>) is an excellent resource for students with skilled staff available to help students find what they need.

In addition to your department faculty advisor, the University offers Student Support Resources (https://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/student_support.php), including help and information on registration, fees, financial aid, and student health and counseling services. You are welcome to talk with your faculty advisor or any instructor regarding issues you may be facing.

Lauren's Promise: I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you.

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old honors student athlete and the daughter of my PhD committee chair, was murdered on Oct. 22, 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah campus. We must all take action to ensure that this never happens again.

If you are in immediate danger, call **911** or the appropriate emergency services number for your area.

If you are experiencing sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or stalking, please report it to me and I will connect you to resources or call the Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline at (800) 356-6767, WRAP (Women's/Men's Resource and Rape Assistance Program) at (800) 273-8712, or Pathways Crisis Hotline (800) 372-0693.

Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be tolerated at the University of Tennessee at Martin. UTM has instituted procedures to respond to violations of these laws and standards, programs aimed at the prevention of such conduct, and intervention on behalf of the victims.***

UTM police officers will treat victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking with respect and dignity. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance and UTM police will assist by providing resources to victims. In addition to its law enforcement efforts regarding sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking, UTM police refer victims to the appropriate university and/or local community counseling and other resources devoted to assisting victims.

Advocates help survivors determine their own needs in regards to their physical and emotional health, reporting options, and academic concerns. They connect survivors to campus and community services, and provide accompaniment to important appointments (court, hospital, and police) and support throughout the process. UTM police can also connect you with advocacy services, if desired. The local advocacy group is the [Victim Assistance and Advocacy Project](#).

Other confidential resources include UTM [Student Health and Counseling Services](#). Information shared with UTM counselors will not be provided to UTM police without expressed permission from you. If you are an online student and cannot arrange counseling services at the UTM campus, I would be happy to help you gain access to similar services in your area.

AGEC 335: International Agricultural Trade Tentative Course Schedule, Fall 2021

I. Section 1: The Economics of Trade Agreements

- Module 1: Introduction
- Module 2: The Economic Foundations of Trade
- Module 3: Trade Agreements

Exam #1

II. Section 2: Economic Models of Trade

- Module 4: Comparative Advantage as a Reason for Trade
- Module 5: Resource Endowments as a Reason for Trade
- Module 6: Offshoring and Immigration

Exam #2

III. Section 3: International Macroeconomics and Agriculture

- Module 7: Macroeconomics
- Module 8: Foreign Exchange
- Module 9: Specific Commodities and Policies

Exam #3 (Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 12:45-2:45 p.m.)

There may be supplemental topics in this course that are not included explicitly in the lecture materials. Additional readings/videos may be provided in class or through Canvas. The course schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.