

**San José State University Economics Department**  
**ECON 236, Seminar in International Trade and Finance, Fall, 2020**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Dr. Triya Seshadri
Office Location:	Online: Zoom
Email:	triyakshana.seshadri@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	by appointment
Class Days/Time:	W 6:30pm-9:15pm, and asynchronous lecture videos.
Classroom:	Online Zoom.
Prerequisites:	A3 or equivalent second semester composition course (with a grade of C- or better); completion of core GE, satisfaction of Writing Skills Test and upper division standing.

**Course Web Page and Canvas Messaging**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas to learn of any updates.

**Course Description**

Advanced theory of international trade and finance and its application to current problems in international economics.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

The course goals are to promote the development of an advanced level of understand of international trade and finance theory, applications, and policy.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Read and analyze professional literature in international trade and finance.
2. Undertake policy analysis in international trade and finance.

**Required Materials**

Articles and handouts posted on Canvas

The following text is a useful guide to writing well in economics and is recommended.

*Economical Writing by Deirdre McCloskey*

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practical. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### **Important Dates for the course:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Date</b>
Last Day to Drop without W	August 31 <sup>st</sup> 2020
Last Day to Late Drop/Withdraw	November 13 <sup>th</sup> 2020
Thought Essays and Peer Reviews Due Date	Wednesdays Aug Sept and Oct
Research Proposal	September 16 <sup>th</sup> 2020
Integrated Literature Review Section	November 4 <sup>th</sup> 2020
Research Paper Draft for Review	November 18 <sup>th</sup> 2020
Student Research Presentations	Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2020
Research Paper Due Date	December 9 <sup>th</sup> 2020

### **Course Components:**

**Course Structure:** This course is a seminar course and will be conducted through classroom discussions. It will be a process of understanding the field of International Trade through continuous interactions in the classroom. A significant part of the interaction will be writing both for you and for me. My aim as an instructor is to enable you to think about issues in International Trade and be able to articulate them in a scholarly way through “thought essays” and an academic article. The course will be in two segments. The first segment is the exploration phase, where we will proceed through the assigned readings for each week through discussions and lecture. This segment will last the first ten weeks of class. During this segment, each of you will write four “thought essays”. These essays will be 500-750 words long, and will explore, critique, or develop the ideas from the readings in that session. You will use these essays as a means to discover if there are some ideas that you would like to potentially develop into a research paper.

The second segment of the course will be the exploitation phase, during the last five weeks of the semester. During this phase, you will each develop an idea for your final research paper for the class and present it for peer review to your class. The final product of this phase will be your research paper for the class, about 20 pages long, which is due no later than **December 9<sup>th</sup> 2020 11:00pm**.

**Peer Review:** You will each be assigned a “buddy” in class, during the first week. Beginning the third week of class, each week during exploration phase, each of you will have “thought essays” due. You

will also complete a one-page peer-review of the essay of your *buddy*, based on a structured rubric handed out in class.

**Discussion Leader:** Each week, students will be assigned articles, and they need to read, summarize, and critically evaluate these articles as a discussion leader. Discussion leaders will post article summaries on Canvas each week so that the rest of the class can read them and help continue the discussion. I will give you an outline of how to read and evaluate academic articles.

**Class-Participation:** Merely asking questions in class does not contribute to class participation grade. Your grade will be based on how much value your participation adds to the topics being discussed or knowledge and understanding of the rest of the class. You need to use critical thinking skills both as a discussion leader and during class participation.

**Quiz:** There will be a quiz during the first ten minutes of every session beginning the second session on August 26<sup>th</sup>. These will be based on the readings from the previous week. We will have approximately 12 quizzes corresponding to the weekly topics, and the lowest two will be dropped.

**Grading:** Each of your thought essays will be evaluated as I would a research proposal. Your Research Paper will be evaluated as a research paper submitted for a journal. Your essays will be evaluated based on two criteria a) your mastery of the subject and b) your ability to think and articulate new lines of academic inquiry on the topic. Truly outstanding work requires that your papers have both the above-mentioned qualities. "A" grades imply that you have demonstrated both the above qualities in your papers. "B" grades indicate that even though you have demonstrated a mastery of the subject, there is not much indication that you have pushed the topics towards further development. "C" grades imply that you have failed to demonstrate neither a mastery of the subject nor a manner of developing topics in the field further.

### ***Final Paper:***

Each student will complete a research paper on a Trade related Economic Topic. The paper can either be a theoretical exploration or a statistical presentation of the topic. The Final Paper is due on the day the Final Exam is scheduled for this course, Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> by 11:00pm. All Final papers should be at least 5000 words, approximately 15-20 pages (not longer than 25 pages including tables/charts etc) double-spaced, Times New Roman Font size 12 with 1-inch margins. The paper should be submitted on Canvas and on Turnitin by the due date and time. The grading rubric for the Final Paper will be posted on Canvas.

### ***Final Paper Proposal/Literature Review:***

To help prepare for your Final paper, you will submit a Paper Proposal, which includes your research question, hypothesis, data sources, and an initial literature review (at least 10 citations in a research appropriate format). This is due on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. You can add to this literature review as you progress through writing your Final Paper. You will also submit a completed Literature Review Section by November 11<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Please plan for these due dates early. These grades are based on completion, and if you do not turn these in on time you will earn a zero for this component of the course.

### ***Final Paper Draft/Paper Presentation/Research Review:***

All students need to submit a Final Paper Draft by November 18<sup>th</sup> 2020. You will continue to improve on this draft. However, this will be the draft that you will receive comments on both from your peers and me. We will spend the last class session on student presentations. Every student not presenting has to submit an in-class research review for each presentation. I will handout rubrics for you to use.

## Grading Information

### Determination of Grades

**Grading:** Each of your thought essays will be evaluated as I would a research proposal. Your final paper will be evaluated as a research paper submitted for a journal. Your essays will be evaluated based on two criteria a) your mastery of the subject and b) your ability to think and articulate new lines of academic inquiry on the topic. Truly outstanding work requires that your papers have both the above-mentioned qualities. "A" grades imply that you have demonstrated both the above qualities in your papers. "B" grades indicate that even though you have demonstrated a mastery of the subject, there is not much indication that you have pushed the topics towards further development. "C" grades imply that you have failed to demonstrate neither a mastery of the subject nor a manner of developing topics in the field further.

Category	Percentage of Course Grade
Discussion Leader	10%
Class Participation (Comments on leader)	5%
Weekly Quiz (10 out of 12)	10%
Peer Review (4 out of 5)	10%
Thought Essay (4 out of 5)	20%
Presentation	10%
Research Review	5%
Final Paper	20%
Paper Proposal/Literature Review	5% each

## Classroom Protocol

I take academic honesty very seriously and will follow the policies as published by SJSU. These policies are online and available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>. It is the responsibility of the student to read and understand what constitutes a violation of the honor code. Claims of ignorance cannot be used to justify dishonest behaviors. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported through the appropriate channels. In this course, any student caught engaging in activities which violate the honor code as written by the University will receive a semester grade of "F" for this course.

### **Disability Notice**

Please email me as soon as possible if you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability. Presidential Directive 97-03 at [http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD\\_1997-03.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

### **Other Class Policies**

1. Students will show respect for others at all times.
2. Please email me using your SJSU email through Canvas. All attachments need to be through Canvas.
3. I will usually reply within 48 hours except during weekends.
4. I will use Canvas Announcements frequently.

### **University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> Make sure to review these policies and resources.

### **Thought Essay Topics/Ideas:**

These are some general ideas for your Thought Essays. Your essay can be more specific than the ideas suggested here. The only requirement is that you explore ideas related to topics discussed in class during that week or the week immediately preceding.

**Thought Essay 1:** Critical Analysis of Comparative or Absolute Advantage theories with real world examples.

Application of Comparative Advantage and Absolute Advantage theories to a specific case, and analysis of the case.

**Thought Essay 2:** Critical Analysis of the Hecksher-Ohlin Model using an example. Critical analysis of the benefits or disadvantages of tariffs using specific country examples.

**Thought Essay 3:** Application or critical analysis of the Returns to Scale model using an example.

**Thought Essay 4:** Application or critical analysis of the gravity models using an example.

**Thought Essay 5:** Discussion or critical analysis of Outsourcing as a model towards economic growth. Use country examples.

## ECON 236 Seminar in International Trade and Finance, Fall 2020 Course Schedule

*This is the planned schedule for the course. Weekly topics correspond to the writing exercises we will complete that week. Reading lists for the topics will be posted on Canvas. We may be a little ahead or behind on any given week. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in the class and through Canvas.*

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments Due
1	8/26	Syllabus, Introduction	
2	9/2	Trade Theories: Comparative Advantage and Trade	<b>Thought Essay 1</b>
3	9/9	Impact of Tariffs on Economic Growth	<b>Peer Review 1</b>
4	9/16	Heckscher-Ohlin and other Trade Theories	<b>Thought Essay 2</b>
5	9/23	Returns to Scale and Trade	<b>Peer Review 2</b> <b>Research Paper Proposal</b>
6	9/30	Returns to Scale and Trade	<b>Thought Essay 3</b>
7	10/7	Gravity Models	<b>Peer Review 3</b>
8	10/14	Gravity Models	<b>Thought Essay 4</b>
9	10/21	Outsourcing and Offshoring Models	<b>Peer Review 4</b>
10	10/28	Trade in Economic History	<b>Thought Essay 5</b>
11	11/4	Trade in Economic History	<b>Peer Review 5</b>
12	11/11	Multinationals and Foreign Direct Investment	<b>Integrated Literature Review Section</b>
13	11/18	Trade, Politics and Activism	<b>Final Paper Draft</b>
13	11/25	Thanksgiving Holiday No Classes	
14	12/2	Student Presentations	<b>Research Reviews</b>
15	12/9	<b>Final Paper Due on Canvas and Turnitin by 11:00pm</b>	