

**San José State University Economics Department**  
**ECON 236, Seminar in International Trade and Finance, Fall, 2019**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Dr. Triya Seshadri
Office Location:	DMH 219
Email:	triyakshana.seshadri@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	W 5pm-6pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	W 6:30pm-9:15pm
Classroom:	DMH 166
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	Sept 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2019
Last Day to Add the Course	Sept 10 <sup>th</sup> 2019
Research Proposal and Literature Review (Bonus)	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2019
Research Paper Draft for Review	November 13 <sup>th</sup> 2019
Student Paper Presentations	Nov 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 4 <sup>th</sup> 2019
Research Paper Due Date	December 11 <sup>th</sup> 2019
Thought Essays and Peer Reviews Due Date	Every Wednesday Class Meets

### **Course Components:**

**Course Structure:** This course will not be conducted pure lecture style. 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 three pages 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 11<sup>th</sup> 2019 1:00pm.**

**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. During the exploitation phase, everyone who is not presenting will submit a peer-review report.

**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.

**Quiz:** There will be a quiz during the first ten minutes of every session beginning the second session on August 28<sup>th</sup>. These will be based on the readings for the week. We will have approximately 10 quizzes corresponding to the weekly topics.

**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 an Economic Topic. You can either choose from a list of Economic Topics or choose your own. 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 11<sup>th</sup> by 2:30pm. 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 distributed in class.

### ***Final Paper Proposal/Literature Review: (Bonus Points)***

To help prepare for your Final paper, you can 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 October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019. You can add to this literature review as you progress through writing your Final Paper.

Please plan for these due dates early. I do not accept any late work. The 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 13<sup>th</sup> 2019. 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 two class sessions 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
Class Participation	10%
Weekly Quiz	10%
Peer Review	20%
Thought Essay	20%
Presentation	10%
Research Review	10%
Final Paper	20%
Paper Proposal/Literature Review (Bonus)	2%

### 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 see me as soon as possible if you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated. 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. Class will begin on time and end on time.
3. Cell phones need to be set on silent, and laptops speakers need to be muted.
4. Students using electronic devices for non-class purposes will be asked to leave the classroom.
5. Please email me using your SJSU email through Canvas. All attachments need to be through

Canvas.

6. I will usually reply within 48 hours except during weekends.
7. 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.

## ECON 236 Seminar in International Trade and Finance, Fall 2019 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 handed out in the classroom and posted on Canvas. We may be a little ahead or behind on any given week based on how intense the classroom discussion are. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in the class and through emails.*

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments Due
1	8/21	Syllabus, Introduction	
2	8/28	Trade Theories: Comparative Advantage and Trade	Thought Essay 1
3	9/4	Impact of Tariffs on Economic Growth	Peer Review 1
4	9/11	Heckscher-Ohlin and other Trade Theories	Thought Essay 2
5	9/18	Returns to Scale and Trade	Peer Review 2
6	9/25	Returns to Scale and Trade	Thought Essay 3
7	10/2	Gravity Models	Peer Review 3
8	10/9	Gravity Models	Thought Essay 4
9	10/16	Outsourcing and Offshoring Models	Peer Review 4
10	10/23	Trade in Economic History	Thought Essay 5
11	10/30	Trade in Economic History	Peer Review 5
12	11/6	Multinationals and Foreign Direct Investment	Thought Essay 6
13	11/13	Trade, Politics and Activism	Peer Review 6
14	11/18	Student Presentations and Research Reviews	
15	11/27	Thanksgiving Holiday No Classes	
16	12/4	Student Presentations and Research Reviews	
17	12/11	<b>Final Paper Due on Canvas and Turnitin by 2:30pm</b>	