

**ECON 4310**  
**Exchange Rates and Global Economics**  
**SPRING 2020 SYLLABUS**

CLASS INFORMATION

Course: ECON 4310.01

Time: MWF 2:10pm–3:00pm

Location: Davis-Shaughnessy Hall 374

Off. Hrs: MWF 3:00pm–4:00pm & by appt.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT

Instructor: Fei Tan

Dept. of Economics, St. Louis Univ.

Office: Davis-Shaughnessy Hall 467

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

International economics takes both the micro and macro perspectives to study how nations interact through trade of goods and services, flows of money, and investment. It can be divided into two interrelated subfields: international trade and international finance. This course adopts the macro perspective on international economics, building on the foundations developed in intermediate-level macroeconomics. It provides analytical tools and formal models to explain, in particular, balance of payments and exchange rate determination. Students are expected to apply this set of tools and models to understand current international macroeconomic events, forecast the behavior of the global economy, and assess the impact of real world policy choices.

PREREQUISITES

ECON 1900 (Principles of Economics) and ECON 3120 (Intermediate Macroeconomics). In general, students should be familiar with the concepts of supply and demand, the basics of monetary and fiscal policy, and have some experience using equations, graphs, and tables to analyze economic situations. Students are also expected to be familiar with functions, their graphical representation, and the solution of simultaneous equations.

TEXTBOOKS

- **Required:** *International Economics: Theory and Policy*, student value edition plus MyEconLab with Pearson eText (access card package), 11th Edition, by Paul R. Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld, and Marc Melitz. Note: this book follows the standard practice of dividing the subjects into two halves: trade and finance issues. We focus on the finance portion.
- **Required:** *International Macroeconomics*, by Stephanie Schmitt-Grohe, Martin Uribe, and Michael Woodford. Link: [www.columbia.edu/~mu2166/UIM](http://www.columbia.edu/~mu2166/UIM).

- **Online resources:** [sites.google.com/a/slu.edu/tanf/courses](https://sites.google.com/a/slu.edu/tanf/courses) (instructor's home page).

#### COURSE ORGANIZATION

This class meets for three lectures per week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday). Students are required to have read the corresponding chapter of our required textbook and the supplementary materials (if assigned) prior to each lecture. Class activities are based on the premise that you have read the textbook and the materials assigned, at least once, prior to each class. Lectures only compliment the required reading materials. Lectures are not a substitute for the readings nor are the readings a substitute for attending and participating in class. After each class the lecture notes of that class will be posted on the instructor's home page. You should reconstruct your class notes based upon these materials so that you truly understand the material. You are responsible for all materials presented in the textbook, lecture notes, and supplementary materials as preparation for exams.

### **IN- & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES**

#### HOMEWORK & QUIZ

There will be six required homework assignments. Late homework is not graded and will be nullified. Homework assignments are worth 18% or 90 points of the course grade. There will also be six in-class quizzes with a total of 12% or 60 points of the course grade.

#### ATTENDANCE REWARD

Attendance is mandatory. Ten **unannounced** attendance will be taken throughout the semester and your properly documented attendance will be rewarded with a maximum of 50 credit points. There will be no credit points given for attendance if you are not in class for any reason.

#### EXAMINATIONS

The examinations will be a combination of multiple choice and short essay questions. There will be three in-class exams with a total of 60% or 300 points of the course grade. The three exams are scheduled on the following days:

<b>Midterm Exam 1</b>	<b>Friday, Feb. 21</b>	<b>2:10pm–3:00pm</b>
<b>Midterm Exam 2</b>	<b>Wednesday, Apr. 1</b>	<b>2:10pm–3:00pm</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Wednesday, May 6</b>	<b>2:00pm–3:00pm</b>

## GRADING POLICY

### GRADING SCALE

There is no grading curve used other than the scale below. However, the instructor reserves the right to adjust the grading scale based on overall class performance at the end of the semester. The final grade for the course is based on the percentage of the **adjusted** total points earned. **Please periodically check your grade throughout the semester for accuracy.**

	Max Points	% of Total	Grade	Points	Percentage
Homework	90	18	A	500–455	100–91
Quiz	60	12	A-	454–430	90–86
Attendance	50	10	B+	429–405	85–81
Exam	<u>300</u>	<u>60</u>	B	404–380	80–76
Total	500	100%	B-	379–355	75–71
			C+	354–330	70–66
			C	329–305	65–61
			C-	304–280	60–56
			D	279–255	55–51
			F	254–0	50 or less

### MAKE-UP POLICY

There are no make-up exams. The points from the excused, missed exam will be placed onto the final exam. No make-ups are provided for homework. The missed homework points, due to an approved absence, will be considered when calculating your final grade.

## IMPORTANT MISCELLANEOUS

Please read the following information thoroughly and carefully. I would assume that you have fully understood these rules. Some modification of policies may become necessary during the semester. The instructor will make explicit announcements pertaining to any such changes.

1. Your schedule must permit you to be free to take the final exam. There are no alternatives to taking the exam at this time and date. Consult the final exam schedule to avoid additional

conflicts. If you are also enrolled in any other courses that have a time conflict, please drop all but one of these conflicting courses now unless you can resolve the conflict with your instructor(s) in the other course(s). You can find information about the academic calendar on the following webpage: [www.slu.edu/registrar/calendars](http://www.slu.edu/registrar/calendars)

2. In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center, a one-stop shop, which assists students with academic and career related services, is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite 331) and the School of Nursing (Suite 114). Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about: [i.] course-level support (e.g. faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor; and [ii.] university-level support (e.g., tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, academic coaching, career services, and/or facets of curriculum planning) by visiting the Student Success Center or by going to [www.slu.edu/student-success-center](http://www.slu.edu/student-success-center).

3. Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations **must** contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also **must** notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services, located within the Student Success Center, at [Disability\\_services@slu.edu](mailto:Disability_services@slu.edu) or 314.977.3484 to schedule an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services and viewed within Banner via the instructor's course roster.

Note: students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

4. Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern. The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015, and can be accessed on the Provost's Office website: [www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic\\_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%206-26-15.pdf](http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%206-26-15.pdf).

Additionally, each SLU College, School, and Center has adopted its own academic integrity

policies, available on their respective websites. It is the policy of the John Cook School of Business that the “Giving and receiving of unauthorized assistance on any graded exercise constitutes academic dishonesty and may result in grade reductions and/or probation, suspension, or dismissal.” You can find information about the academic misconduct policy on the following webpage: [business.slu.edu/programs-of-study/undergraduate-business-programs/resources/academic-misconduct](https://business.slu.edu/programs-of-study/undergraduate-business-programs/resources/academic-misconduct).

All SLU students are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions, and appeals. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program, or the Dean/Director of the College, School or Center in which your program is housed.

5. Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU’s Title IX coordinator, Anna R. Kratky (DuBourg Hall, room 36; [akratky@slu.edu](mailto:akratky@slu.edu); 314-977-3886) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK. To view SLU’s sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: [www.slu.edu/general-counsel-home/office-of-institutional-equity-and-diversity/sexual-misconduct-policy](https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel-home/office-of-institutional-equity-and-diversity/sexual-misconduct-policy).

6. **Valid Excuses:** many possible events may occur that would result in your inability to attend class, exams, or perform at a minimally acceptable level during an examination. The followings can be legitimate reasons to miss class or to be excused from a scheduled examination.
  - (a) **Illness or injury:** a note from a physician, physician’s assistant, or a nurse-practitioner that says, among other things, “...unable to attend...” is required. If the note leaves any ambiguity on this point you will not be excused. Further, the note must be provided to the instructor within three days of the missed course event.
  - (b) **Family emergencies:** you must provide verifiable documentation of the emergency. Given the vast array of family emergencies the instructor will provide precise guidance as to what constitutes adequate documentation. With the exception of illness or *critical* emergencies, any absence must be excused in advance of the missed course event. In cases of critical emergencies, you must notify the instructor within three days of your absence.

(c) University-approved curricular and extra-curricular activities: verifiable documentation is required. The student should obtain from the unit or department sponsoring the activity a letter (or class absence form) indicating the anticipated absence(s). The letter must be presented to the instructor at least one week prior to the first absence.

(d) Religious holidays: the student should notify the instructor by the second week of the course of any potential conflicts.

### TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Below is a tentative outline; the instructor reserves the right to change it whenever needed. My goal is to proceed at an optimal pace: slow enough that important concepts are thoroughly learned, yet fast enough that the course does not drag. It is a delicate balance.

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<b>Part I</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
Jan. 13, 15, 17	Syllabus & Lecture 1: Introduction
Jan. 20	No class – Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 22, 24, 27, 29	Lecture 2: National Income Accounting and Balance of Payments
Jan. 31	Homework 1 due
Jan. 31, Feb. 3, 5, 7	Lecture 3: Exchange Rates and Foreign Exchange Market
Feb. 10, 12, 14, 17	Lecture 4: Money, Interest Rates, and Exchange Rates
Feb. 19	Homework 2 due & review of Midterm 1
Feb. 21	<b>Midterm Exam 1: 2:10pm – 3:00pm</b>
Feb. 24, 26, 28, Mar. 2	Lecture 5: Price Levels and Exchange Rate in the Long Run
Mar. 4, 6	Lecture 6: Output and Exchange Rate in the Short Run
Mar. 9, 11, 13	No class – Spring break
Mar. 15	Homework 3 due
Mar. 16, 18	Lecture 6: Output and Exchange Rate in the Short Run
Mar. 20, 23, 25, 27	Lecture 7: Fixed Exchange Rates and Foreign Exchange Intervention
Mar. 30	Homework 4 due & review of Midterm 2
Apr. 1	<b>Midterm Exam 2: 2:10pm – 3:00pm</b>

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<b>Part II</b>	<b>Advanced Topics</b>
Apr. 3, 6, 8	Lecture 1: Global Imbalances
Apr. 10, 13	No class – Easter break

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Apr. 15, 17, 20, 22	Lecture 2: Current Account Sustainability
Apr. 24	Homework 5 due
Apr. 24, 27, 29, May 1	Lecture 3: An Intertemporal Theory of Current Account
May 4	Homework 6 due & review of Final
May 6	<b>Final Exam: 2:00pm – 3:00pm</b>

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