

IBUS 500: Global Business Forum

Class Time/ Location	Mondays 5-5:50 pm PST in Paccar 391 Office Hours by appointment
Academic Director	Dr. Christina Fong ctfong@uw.edu

Course website: <http://canvas.uw.edu>

Speakers: To access our website, login using the login name: gbfguest. Password: intl_exec

OVERVIEW

The Global Business Forum is an MBA class and discussion forum where professionals from around the world share their insights into the complexities of doing business globally - differences encountered, obstacles overcome, advantages discovered, and solutions developed. MBA students interact with these speakers, discuss relevant issues and formulate conclusions and best practices. This forum and class is sponsored by the UW Global Business Center.

Objectives:

- To engage with issues arising from doing business and working with people around the world
- To build knowledge of how organizations work differently in different countries and regions.
- To define the additional leadership qualities which are required of global business executives and professionals.
- To learn best practices and skills for global business.
- To meet and build meaningful relationships with global business professionals

2025-26 GLOBAL BUSINESS FORUM THEMES**Fall 2025: Doing Business with Central and South America**

The GBF will host executives who have worked in Central or South America or have built and maintained significant relationships with companies in this area to share their insights. Executives will be asked to compare and contrast their experiences in Central/South America with business experiences in the US and other countries, to discuss and identify opportunities in this exciting area, as well as the possible pitfalls of doing work in Central/South America.

Winter 2026: The Global Sports Arena: Business, Culture, and Impact

In celebration of Seattle hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Global Business Forum will host a dynamic speaker series that will delve into the multifaceted world of global sports. This series will feature industry leaders and experts who will explore various aspects of sports across the globe, including marketing, operations, management, and the economic impact of sports around the world.

Spring 2026: Managing Macroeconomic Trends

How do business leaders leverage and mitigate risks associated with trade disruptions? This quarter will take an in-depth look at the critical role that trade between nations plays in the perpetuation of business across the globe. We will invite leaders to discuss how they deal with tariffs and trade regulations, how they manage the import and export of valued goods and products, and complex interplay between trade and macroeconomic forces in business.

COURSE FORMAT

The Global Business Forum functions mostly as an avenue to connect students with distinguished professionals who are shaping and shaped by global dynamics in business. Each class session will be 50 minutes. The typical session involves about 10-20 minutes of introductory comments from the speaker with the remaining time for Q&A from the students.

COURSE CREDIT

In order to receive course credit (2 credits) for IBUS 500, you must accumulate a total of 50 points in the following manner:

Session Contributions	2pt x at least 9/10 sessions =	18 pts
Pre Forum Survey	4 pts x 1 survey =	4 pts
Post-Session Reflections	2 pts x at least 7/8 speakers =	14 pts
Speaker Discussion Board	7 pts x 1 post =	7 pts
Learning Circles Discussion Board	7 pts x 1 post =	7 pts
		50 pts total

1: SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS

Please respect and honor the speakers' generosity in speaking to us.

- No open laptops or use of smart phones during speaker talks and Q&A sessions. If you wish to take notes, please do so by hand.
- For virtual (Zoom) sessions, please keep cameras on (if possible) and use Chat to engage in the discussion. In lieu of nametents, please make sure to rename your profile with your first and last name.

- You must **attend all but one session**. As this is a speaker course, hearing the speakers is key. You get one free miss.
- Any session where more than 5 minutes is missed does not count – this includes leaving early and arriving late.
- You are required to bring and use your nametent for each session.

2: PRE FORUM SURVEY

At the outset and culmination of the course you will complete a survey to help codify what you want to learn, set a foundation for the topic, submit questions to the speakers, and open communication between us. I value your input in tailoring the course to fit your needs.

3. POST SESSION REFLECTIONS

After each session that you attend, please complete a post-session survey to debrief and reflect on the speaker or session. Each survey should take around 10-15 minutes and are available on Canvas. You should only complete surveys for sessions that you attend.

4. SPEAKER DISCUSSION BOARD

At least once in the quarter, please share your reflections on a speaker of your choice by posting to the Canvas Discussion Board for that speaker.

5. LEARNING CIRCLES

Join the conversation, learn from and teach your colleagues by posting your reflections.

Access and Accommodations. Your experience in this class is important to me. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please activate your accommodations via myDRS so we can discuss how they will be implemented in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), contact DRS directly to set up an Access Plan. DRS facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations. Contact DRS at disability.uw.edu.

Religious Accommodations. Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy \(https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form \(https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/)."

TITLE IX RESOURCES

UW, through [numerous policies](#), prohibits sex- and gender-based violence and harassment, and we expect students, faculty, and staff to act professionally and respectfully in all work, learning, and research environments.

For support, resources, and reporting options related to sex- and gender-based violence or harassment, visit [UW Title IX's webpage](#), specifically the [Know Your Rights & Resources](#) guide.

Please know that if you choose to disclose information to me about sex- or gender-based violence or harassment, I will connect you (or the person who experienced the conduct) with resources and individuals who can best provide support and options. You can also access those resources directly:

- Confidential: [Confidential advocates](#) will not share information with others unless given express permission by the person who has experienced the harm or when required by law.
- Private and/or anonymous: [SafeCampus](#) provides consultation and support and can connect you with additional resources if you want them. You can contact SafeCampus anonymously or share limited information when you call.

Please note that some senior leaders and other specified employees have been identified as [“Officials Required to Report.”](#) If an Official Required to Report learns of possible sex- or gender-based violence or harassment, they are required to call SafeCampus and report all the details they have in order to ensure that the person who experienced harm is offered support and reporting options.

Title IX website: uw.edu/titleix/

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

9/29	Course Intro
10/6	Learning Circles
10/13	TBD
10/20	Beatriz Herrera, InvestChile (Virtual)
10/27	Ricardo Arias , Starbucks Latin America (Virtual)
11/3	Bruce Thompson , Head of Americas - Microsoft Education (in person)
11/10	Emily Mantel , Director of Support Engineering, Microsoft Costa Rica (Virtual)
11/17	Raul Bandeira , NetApp Customer Success, LATAM (in person)
11/24	Lisa White , Commercial Attache, US Embassy Bogota (Virtual)
12/1	Renton Leversedge , President Manufacturing, SanMar (in person)