

## Course Syllabus

Fall Semester 2023

**AEC 309****International Agriculture, World Food Needs and U.S. Trade in Agricultural Products**

**Term:** August 21 - December 15 (Final Exam: Monday, Dec. 11, 8:00 – 10:00 AM)  
**Time:** MWF 9:00 - 9:50 AM  
**Location:** Room 227 Charles E. Barnhart Bldg.  
**Prerequisites:** AEC 101, ECO 201 or equivalent

**Instructor:** Munib Inam  
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**Office hours:** Mon. & Wed. 10:00 to 11:00 AM or by appointment via email.

**TA:** Buddhika Patalee  
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**TA Office hours:** By appointment via email.

**Course Description:**

This course deals with present and projected world food/population balance by geographic regions; food production and world trade in agricultural products with an emphasis on the implications for U.S. agriculture; an introduction to agricultural development problems of the less developed nations of Latin America, Africa, and Asia.”

Prerequisite: AEC 101 or equivalent (ECO 201). This is a very broad, comprehensive course. Economics is the “lead” discipline, but it also brings in geography, ethics and the natural sciences to address global food issues.

**Please note: This is a tentative syllabus and is subject to change.**

**Objectives, Outcomes and Course Activities:**

The course is designed to help students:

- Understand the global impacts of agriculture and food issues.
- Have an informed response to the question “Who will feed the world?”
- Have a broad knowledge of trade theories.

By the end of the semester, students will

- Learn to analyze the pros and cons of changes in trade and agriculture policies.
- Have an intuitive understanding of foreign exchange rate market.
- Learn to analyze policies proposed to improve food access or trade impacts.
- Understand the purpose of free trade agreements.

- Be able to understand the dynamics of “globalization”.
- Be able to identify many countries on every continent.

The key concepts every student is expected to know include:

- Law of demand - what is a demand curve?
- Law of supply - what is a supply curve?
- Elasticity of demand/supply
- Market concentration.

Additionally, for international trade, students are expected to understand:

- Comparative and absolute advantage
- Exchange rates
- Theories of Growth and Development.

### **Course Outline:**

The following course outline should be considered as a guide:

1. Who will feed the world?
2. Global food issues
3. Trade theories and policies
4. Foreign exchange rate market
5. Growth and development
6. Feeding the World – Sustainably
7. Food aid policy (international and domestic)
8. Globalization and global productivity
9. Free trade or Fair trade?

### **Required Textbooks:**

- 1- **Rivoli, P. 2009.** The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy, 2nd ed. New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons. (ISBN 978-0-470-28713-3)
- 2- **Thurow, R. and S. Kilman. 2009.** Enough – Why the World’s Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty, New York: BBS Publications. (ISBN 978-1-58648-818-5)

Other required readings and resource material will be used throughout the term, provided through Canvas or handouts.

### **Grading:**

Grades will be determined based on 1000 total points:

Pop-up quizzes and projects (350 points, 35%)

Book clubs (150 points, 15%)

Midterm exam (250 points, 25%)

Final exam (250 points, 25%)

**Course letter grades will be assigned as follows:**

90% and up	A (900 points or more)
80% to 89%	B (800-899.9 points)
70% to 79%	C (700-799.9 points)
60% to 69%	D (600-699.9 points)
Below 60%	Failure (Less than 600 points)

Written assignments and responses to essay questions on quizzes and exams will be graded not only on subject matter, but also on **quality of communication**.

An assignment is late if it is not turned in at the assigned deadline. You are welcome and encouraged to use various references and sources for your written assignments and reports. However, in order to avoid any misunderstanding of plagiarism, **you should cite every resource used at the end of the assignment/report**. You are encouraged to discuss class materials with your classmates, but you have to submit the final draft of your assignment written in your **own words**. All the assignments are going to be available through Canvas and are expected to be submitted there by the due date. In order to be fair in grading, no late submission is accepted. For more of your assignments you can follow the memo writing guidelines available at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/590/01>.

**Overview of graded activities in AEC 309:****1. Exams (50%):**

There will be two exams, with the tentative dates:

**Midterm Exam: October 16 (Monday) at 9:00 – 9:50 AM** (50 mins in class);

**Final Exam: December 11 (Monday) at 8:00 – 10:00 AM** (2 hours, location: TBA).

Questions will be of the form: multiple choices, true or false, problem solving, and short question/answer. The mid-term exam is designed for 50 minutes. Exams will focus heavily on the material that we discuss in class, thus understanding of the material covered in lectures and discussions is key to success.

**2. Pop-up Quizzes (10%):**

Be prepared for brief quizzes based on the schedule. All the materials in the reading assignments and discussed in the class are subject to test. You should not find the quizzes too difficult if you follow the discussion in class. We will have at least 4-5 quizzes the whole semester starting from August 28th (Monday).

**3. Class Projects – (Some projects are replaced with Case Studies) - (25%)**

- **Free trade agreement review (5%).** Choose a free trade agreement (FTA) and create a short report on it. You can start with elaborating what the FTA's acronym

stands for, the list of the countries involved, purpose and history of the agreement, value of their trade, and percentage of food and agricultural commodities traded. Do a little research on the biggest food related challenge of member countries and/or the region that the members are located in and conclude your memo with your policy recommendation(s) on how they can overcome the challenge(s) using their FTA potentials. Provide a two-page, single-space FTA review.

**Due on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm.**

- ***Globalization (5%).*** Retrieve a dispute settlement map of a WTO member (other than the United States) from WTO website. Make sure that the country you are choosing has been involved in at least one case related to **agricultural products**. Provide a two-page, single-space report, opening with the country's introduction, an interesting fact you found about that country followed by the continent it is located in and its membership year in WTO. Provide the number of disputes it has been involved as complainant, respondent, and/or third party. Then choose one of the disputes (on agricultural products) and provide a summary of the case. The information on the parties of the case, claims, the date it started and resolved (if applicable) are accessible through the WTO website.

**Due on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm.**

- ***Market Power and Agricultural Trade (5%).*** Choose one agricultural commodity and create a two-page, single-space case study report. Describe major companies' share of the world total sales for the commodity, brands they are associated with, any recent mergers and acquisitions (M&A), and whether they are engaged with fair trade products. As a conclusion provide your suggestions on how they can help to address poverty and hunger issues in the world.

**Due on Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm.**

- ***Foreign country study – Brief report (10%).*** Pick three countries to monitor. One high income (>\$10,000 GNI/capita); one middle (between \$10,000 and \$1,000) and one low income (<\$1,000). First, create a table and include general information about your three countries, such as: local currency and exchange rates, location, population and population density, per capita income, development, health, and education status. Compare these countries based on the information in your table and tell us what their next food related challenge in the near future would be and why you think so. Second, focus on the least developed country you picked and investigate the millennial goals that have been set for it. Explain and analyze their progress towards achieving these goals during the past two decades. You can use their national and/or international reports. Conclude with your policy recommendations that would help the investigated country to improve its progress toward achieving these goals. Provide a five-page, single-space report.

**Due on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm.**

#### 4. **T-shirt and Enough Book Clubs (15%):**

A group presentation of the assigned chapters of book for 15 minutes, followed by a class discussion activity on Fridays. The requirements of this section are subject to **TA's syllabus**.

#### **Attendance & Preparation:**

Attendance is critical for learning. The attendance policy is simple: Come to class every day. Come to class on time. Come to class prepared. Tests and quizzes will cover reading assignments and lecture material as well as relevant points from discussions. Reading assignments are the responsibility of the student and are expected to be done before the assigned class. This is to facilitate class discussion and active learning/engagement.

**The instructor will pass attendance every class day during the first 5 minutes.** If you are late, but arrive during the **first 10 minutes** of class, you should contact the instructor at the end of the class and you will earn a regular class attendance. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor in these cases. **You get one free absence in this class, so save it and use it judiciously.**

For an absence to be excused, it must meet the Student Rights and Responsibilities guidelines:

**(1) serious illness, (2) illness or death of a family member, (3) University-related trip (S.R. 5.2.4.2), (4) major religious holiday, or (5) “reasonable cause for nonattendance” as determined by your instructor.** Religious holiday: students anticipating absence for a major religious holiday during semester must notify instructor in writing no later than the last day to add a class. Further, prior notification by itself of a planned absence does not qualify it as excused unless it meets the above criteria.

**Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the classes scheduled for the semester are missed (excused) per University policy** (*Senate Rules 5.2.5.2.3.1*).

Per Senate Rule 5.2.4.2, students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The instructor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to an excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred.

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. Senate Rule 5.2.4.2 states that instructor have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused absence because of illness, or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to University-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.

#### **Students with Disabilities:**

Early in the semester, students with disabilities should provide me with a letter from the UK

Disability Resource Center that certifies the need for exam or classroom accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to register with the DRC which will verify the disability and need for accommodations. For additional information, contact the DRC at 257-2754 or through their website: [www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter](http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter)

### **Honor Code:**

Cheating, plagiarism and related short-cuts are unacceptable. Students are expected to follow ethical standards regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. as described in the UK Student Code of Conduct. When you sign your name on an assignment, I consider it a contract that the submitted work is yours and yours alone. The bottom line from my perspective is: do your own work and focus on learning. The UK Student Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced if necessary. The minimum penalty for cheating is a failing grade.

Electronic devices are ubiquitous, but can be distracting. In general, I'll let you decide about cell phones, tablets, etc., but will expect you to avoid distractions, especially those which affect others. There should be no phone calls during class. During exams and quizzes, only calculators will be permitted.

Academic Offenses Rules for Undergraduate and Graduate Students are at <https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/ao> . If you have further concerns regarding cheating or plagiarism, please see me.

### **Emergencies:**

If an emergency arises in this classroom, building or vicinity, your instructor will advise you of actions to follow to enhance your safety. If a situation requires emergency shelter (i.e., during a severe weather event), the nearest shelter location is the hallway just outside the classroom. If building evacuation occurs (i.e., fire alarm), follow posted evacuation routes and assemble by bike racks at the base of the outdoor steps so that I can help ensure that students have evacuated the building safely and they are not hindering emergency personnel access to the building. If you may require assistance during an emergency, notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester. In order to prepare for emergencies while on campus please continue to the below links for detailed emergency response guidelines: the UK Division of Crisis Management & Preparedness website (<http://www.uky.edu/EM/emergency-response-guide.html> ) and the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (<http://www.ca.uky.edu/> ). To receive emergency messages, sign up for UK Alert (<http://www.uky.edu/EM/UKAlert> ).

Always turn cellular phones to **silent mode** when entering the classroom. If you observe or receive an emergency alert, immediately and calmly inform your instructor.

### **Face Covering Policy:**

Masks are optional on UK campus and encouraged. Plexiglass is also readily available and optional. This does not apply to UK HealthCare facilities. For further information: <https://coronavirus.uky.edu/covid-19-guidance>