



Spring/Summer 2016
ECON 4940/5940
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Department of Economics

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ECON 4940/5940 International Economics: Vietnam and Hong Kong

Course Description: This course covers issues concerning international trade strategy and cooperation. The course examines the impact of trade patterns and commercial trade policies on domestic business in Asia with emphasis on Vietnam and Hong Kong. Topics include: Doing business in Asia, TPP; APEC; ASEAN Economic Community; and China Plus One Strategy.

Course Objectives:

- (1) To analyze the competitiveness of Asia with emphasis on Vietnam and Hong Kong
- (2) To understand bilateral and multilateral trade cooperation between Asian countries and their trading partners (TPP; APEC; ASEAN Economic Community; and China Plus One Strategy).
- (3) To examine and understand the impact of globalization on economic growth and crisis.
- (4) To sensitize students to cultural and economic differences between Vietnam and Hong Kong

Methodology: We will have three virtual pre-departure meetings via Skype in spring and summer quarters in which we will introduce the course, help students understand the course requirements, the study tour schedule, and their responsibilities. They will also learn about the Asia culture, business etiquette, and political and economic status, and about the places and institutions we will visit. A course Canvas will be developed in spring quarter 2016 for students to get access to course materials, online discussion forum, etc. Prior to departure in September we will have a social event on campus.

During the study tour, students are required to participate in all company and institutional visits and to write an integrative report on international economic topics appropriate to the course they are taking on the study tour. After the study tour, we plan to have a debriefing and collect the final papers.

Daily Journal: Students are required to keep a daily journal beginning from the day of departure from Seattle and continuing to the day of return. We will grade the journals for integration and reflection. The journal should emphasize what you learned from our visits to the various firms, agencies, institutions, and from travel and cultural experiences, and well as class discussions. Leisure activities may be included if they have cultural significance, but the journal should primarily reflect the purpose of the study tour.

Final Group Project: Students enroll in **International Economics** are required to write a final report **Final Group Project** integrating international economics theory and real-world applications. You must have your topic approved by the instructor before beginning the final project. The requirement for each paper is 20-25 pages, including tables, graphs, and references. The projects should analyze major issues in international economics. The emphasis of the project is on **analysis** rather than **description**. With this in mind, students must provide an economic analysis using relevant data and supporting evidence.

Recommended Textbook:

Krugman, Paul, Obstfeld, Maurice, Melitz, Marc. International Economics: Theory and Policy 10th edition. Addison-Wesley, 2015. ISBN 10: 0-13-342364-6; ISBN 13: 978-0-13-342364-8.

Additional Readings: Selected articles from journals, newspapers and magazines will be assigned to complement the textbook.

Grading Criteria:

- Final report: 50%
- Active participation in organizational visits and discussions: 20%
- Presentations (pre-departure meeting, and debriefing): 10%
- Daily journal: 10%
- Online group discussions: 10%

Grade: Letter grades are assigned as follows.

Points	Grade
95-100	A
90-94	A-
85-89	B+
80-84	B
75-79	B-
70-74	C+
67-69	C
65-66	C-
60-64	D+
57-59	D
55-56	D-
0-54	F

Tentative Schedule:

I will be in Vietnam from January to September 2016. I plan to have three virtual pre-departure meetings in spring and summer quarters via Skype, and one meeting on campus in September prior to departure.

- First pre-departure meeting: Introduce study tour program; assign group projects
- Second pre-departure meeting: Lecture on the economies of Vietnam and Hong Kong
- Third pre-departure meeting: Preliminary project presentations
- Social event prior to departure
- Debriefing and collect the final papers

Reading assignments and online group discussions on Canvas:

Textbook: Krugman et al., 2015

Chapter 2: World Trade Overview

Chapter 9: The Instruments of Trade Policy

Chapter 11: Trade Policies in Developing Countries

Chapter 12: Controversies in Trade Policies

Chapter 14: Exchange Rates and the Foreign Exchange Market: An Asset Approach

Chapter 22: Developing Countries: Growth, Crisis, and Reform

Articles for online group discussions:

- (1) Institutional Reform: From Vision to Reality, Vu Thanh Tu Anh et al., 2015, Fulbright Economic Teaching Program Discussion Paper.
- (2) Unplugging Institutional Bottlenecks to Restore Growth, Dwight Perkins et al., 2013, Fulbright Economic Teaching Program Discussion Paper.
- (3) Growth Slowdown and the Middle Income Trap in Asia, James Riedel, Johns Hopkins University, Forthcoming in *Managing Globalization in Asia*, Festschrift in Honour of Prema-Chandra Athukorala, Hal Hill (ANU) and Jayant Menon (ADB), Editors