

U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE
AGEC 437 - SPRING 2023
School of Agriculture – Western Illinois University

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: 11:00 to 11:50 a.m. on M, W, TH, and
F or by appointment

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS:

AGEC 437 will meet on M, W, and F in Knoblauch 306 from 8:00-8:50 am.

EMAILS:

Please be sure to include the course and section in which you are enrolled in any email.

PREREQUISITES:

AGRI 220 or equivalent.

TEXTBOOKS & WEB RESOURCES:

- **Textbook – Optional**
 - International trade and agricultural products. Reed, Michael. (2016)

- **Selected web resources:**
 - USDA-Economic Research Service: <http://www.ers.usda.gov>
 - USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service: <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx>
 - Office of the US Trade Representative: <https://ustr.gov/>
 - Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations: <http://www.fao.org/>
 - International Food Policy Research Institute: <http://www.ifpri.org/>
 - The World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org/>
 - US Agency for International Development: <http://www.usaid.gov>
 - Library of Congress Country Studies: <http://countrystudies.us/>
 - Google Public Data: <https://www.google.com/publicdata/directory>
 - AgEcon Search: <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/?ln=en>
 - WIU Writing Center: http://www.wiu.edu/cas/english/university_writing_center/

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

The goal of AGECE 437 is to develop an understanding of U.S. agricultural trade. Specifically, students will be able to:

- Understand concepts and terminology associated with agricultural trade
- Describe the role of the US in international trade
- Identify and understand domestic agricultural policies that affect international trade
- Identify barriers to trade
- Recognize national and international agencies and organizations involved in agricultural trade
- Understand approaches that can be used to analyze agricultural trade

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS:

Participation: Attendance is required and will be graded through Kahoot! Quizzes. Students' participation in class is strongly encouraged.

Absences: If at any time you have a **family emergency, funeral, or illness (including Covid)**, please contact the instructor via email prior to class and not after to excuse your absence. If the email is sent after class has started, then

any graded assignment finished during the class period you missed will be recorded as zero. Excessive absences will result in failure of the course. **The student remains responsible for completing missed work as soon as possible as well as getting familiar with any material covered during the missed class period.**

Academic Integrity: The rules and regulations outlined in the University's policy on academic integrity are applied to this course. See <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>. Any violation of the Academic Dishonesty Policy in Student Handbook will result in automatic failure of the course.

Plagiarism is not tolerated in this class. Works evidenced as plagiarism (accidental or willful use of someone else's words, ideas) will be penalized by a failing grade on the homework, quiz, project, or exam. **Furthermore, the instructor will follow the procedure according to the Student Academic Integrity Policy- see link above.**

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Detailed information regarding student rights and responsibilities can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student/>. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the posted information.

Policy on disruptive behavior: Students will face disciplinary action if they are found to be non-compliant with WIU's COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy (http://www.wiu.edu/policies/covid_safety.php). Non-compliance may be considered disruptive student behavior and disciplinary action will follow general process outlined in disruptive student behavior procedures (<http://www.wiu.edu/policies/disrupst.php>) and/or other applicable enforcement measures applicable to the Code of Student Conduct.

Special Accommodations: In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

University values: University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/report.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy. Policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/dhsm.php>.

USE OF CELLULAR PHONES/ SMART WATCHES AND LAPTOPS/TABLETS:

As a courtesy to other students and to the instructor, all cell phones should be turned off prior to class. Continued disregard of this policy may result in ejection from the course. If, due to medical or public safety concerns, a student needs an exception to this policy he/she should inform the instructor prior to class. Cell phones are not allowed under any circumstances on exams.

Use of laptops or tablets is not allowed in class unless it is required by the instructor to conduct research or any class activity related to the topic being covered. Lecture notes will be available at Western Online and must be printed in advance. **Texting or surfing the internet** is not allowed during class and repeated violations may lead to dismissal from the course with an assigned grade of F.

TOBACCO POLICY:

Tobacco use of any kind will not be tolerated in class. This includes chewing tobacco.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, Jan 16	Dr. Martin Luther King Day – No Class/ University Closed
Monday, Feb 13	Lincoln’s Birthday – No Class/ University Closed
March 13 – 17	Spring Break – No Class/ University Closed
Sunday, Apr 02	Last day to drop classes or withdraw from the university
Monday, May 08	Final Comprehensive Exam: 8:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

GRADING POLICY:

The course grade will be based on the following factors, with weightings as indicated:

Exam I	15%	A = 93% or above	C = 73 - 76.99%
Exam II	15%	A- = 90 - 92.99%	C- = 70 - 72.99%
Comprehensive Final Exam	20%	B+ = 87 - 89.99%	D+ = 67 - 69.99%
Quizzes & Weekly Readings	15%	B = 83 - 86.99%	D = 63 - 66.99%
Trade Project	15%	B- = 80 - 82.99%	D- = 60 - 62.99%
Final Project	20%	C+ = 77 - 79.99%	F = <60%
Total	100%		

Grade breaking points may be lowered, but in no case will they be raised. These breaking points will be evaluated only after final numerical grades have been calculated.

Attention Education Majors: The changes within the Illinois State Teaching License requirements, students are required to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet state requirements. With the university’s +/- grading system, receiving a grade below a "C-" will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet School of Agriculture graduation requirements.

EXAMS:

There will be 2 midterms and one final exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short/long answer, and/or problem solving questions. **The final exam will be comprehensive** (same format as semester exams). Makeup exams will only be given in extreme situations.

QUIZZES AND WEEKLY READINGS:

Ten-point quizzes on lectures, readings or other references – True/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, short/long answer, and/or problem-solving type of questions. Quizzes will be available every Friday after class and will remain open until Sunday 11:59 pm. You will have one attempt to take the quiz.

If a student has an official excuse in writing (illness, judging team, etc.) reported before Sunday, the total quiz score will be adjusted with no penalty. The instructor reserves the right to use both announced and unannounced quizzes.

TRADE PROJECT

Details will be provided in class

FINAL PROJECT: Trade paper and presentation

Individual Trade Paper: Students will submit a research paper focused on a specific US trade topic. Please make arrangements to meet with the instructor in the third week of the semester to select a topic. The paper must be written in an academic fashion. Final version must be submitted on April 23 by 11:59 p.m. via Dropbox, no exceptions. Papers must be at least 8 pages (not including the title page and the references section) and typed using Times New Roman, 12 point, doubled spaced and 1-inch margins all around. References section must be done using Chicago or Harvard styles.

Paper presentations: At the end of the semester students will make a 10-minutes formal PowerPoint presentation to the class based on the research you conducted.

Further details about the paper and presentation will be provided in class.

GRADING DISAGREEMENTS:

If a student disagrees with a particular answer, it is the student's responsibility to provide a logical reason in writing as to the reason for their disagreement. This does not apply to scoring errors. All instructors are human and occasional errors in grading will occur. Please bring any such errors to the instructor's attention immediately.

ACCREDITATION:

The School of Agriculture is housed in the College of Business and Technology which is accredited by AACSB-International.

AGEC 337 – COURSE OUTLINE

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic/ Material</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Assignments/ Activities/ Due dates</i>
1	Jan 16 – Jan 20	Introduction to agricultural trade <i>Jan 16 – Dr. Martin Luther King Day – No class</i>	1	Due: Friday, Jan 20 ▪ Quiz 1
2	Jan 23 – Jan 27	Gains from trade	2	Due: Friday, Jan 27 ▪ Quiz 2
3	Jan 30 – Feb 03	Trade policies of importing countries	3	Due: Friday, Feb 03 ▪ Quiz 3
4	Feb 06 – Feb 10	Trade policies of importing countries	3	Due: Friday, Feb 10 ▪ Quiz 4
5	Feb 13 – Feb 17	Trade policies of exporting countries <i>Feb 13 – Lincoln’s Birthday – No class</i>	4	Due: Friday, Feb 17 ▪ Quiz 5
6	Feb 20 – Feb 24	Trade policies of exporting countries	4	Due: Friday, Feb 24 ▪ Midterm 1: Ch 1 to 4
Midterm 1. Feb 28				
7	Feb 27 – Mar 03	Technical barriers to trade	5	Due: Friday, Mar 03 ▪ Quiz 6
8	Mar 06 – Mar 10	Technical barriers to trade	5	Due: Friday, Mar 10 ▪ Quiz 7
9	Mar 13 – Mar 17	Spring Break	No classes/ No Homework	
10	Mar 20 – Mar 24	Multilateral trade negotiations: the GATT and WTO	6	Due: Friday, Mar 24 ▪ Quiz 8
11	Mar 27 – Mar 31	Preferential trade agreements	7	Due: Friday, Mar 31 ▪ Midterm 2: Ch 5 to 7
Midterm 2. March 28				
12	Apr 03 – Apr 07	Agricultural trade and international development	8	Due: Friday, Apr 07 ▪ Quiz 9
13	Apr 10 – Apr 14	Agricultural trade and the environment	9	Due: Friday, Apr 14 ▪ Quiz 10
14	Apr 17 – Apr 21	European Union	10	Due: Friday, Apr 21 ▪ Quiz 11 ▪ Term Paper
15	Apr 24 – Apr 28	China	11	Due: Friday, Apr 28 ▪ Quiz 12
16	May 01 – May 05	<i>Final project - presentations</i>		No quizzes/ no homework
17	May 08 – May 12	Final Comprehensive Exam- Chapters 1 to 11 Monday, May 08 from 8:00 to 9:50 a.m.		

NOTE: Please be advised that this syllabus is tentative. All classes are different, and we may or may not be able to address all the content areas or stick with the anticipated number of exams. Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible