

U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE
AGEC 437 - SPRING 2024
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: **Students' participation in class is strongly encouraged.** Students are expected to read the chapter and activities assigned each week – see the course outline at the end of this document.

Absences: If at any time you have a **family emergency, funeral, illness, or any university activity (including Judging Team, AgVocators)**, please use the Online Absence Reporting System (OARS) system to report your absence (www.wiu.edu/oars). Please note that the OARS system does not excuse your absence; it merely documents it. It is

still up to the instructor to excuse the absence ([see above for valid excuses](#)). [I will need the email generated from this system before class and not after. If I receive the email after class starts, the late grade policies come into effect.](#) Excessive absences will result in failure of the course. The student remains responsible for contacting the instructor to complete missed work as soon as possible and is ultimately accountable for catching up with the material covered in class during the student's absence.

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 Student Handbook's Academic Dishonesty Policy will result in the course's automatic failure.

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

Students with disabilities: By 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 Disability Resources in the Student Development and Success Center at 309-298-1884, disability@wiu.edu, or at 125 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you promptly.

Military/Veteran Support Statement: As a military-friendly institution, and by federal regulations and Illinois statutes, Western Illinois University has established policies and procedures to accommodate military service students. In addition to the supports available at WIU's Veterans Resource Center (wiu.edu/student_success/veterans/ / 309-298-3505), veterans, members of the National Guard or Reserves, and active-duty military personnel with military obligations (e.g., deployments, training, drill) are encouraged to communicate these, in advance whenever possible, to the instructor. The Military Service Policy can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/military.php>.

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. The policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/dhsm.php>.

Technical Support for Western Online:

- Provided through the Western Online Brightspace Virtual Assistant by clicking on the **Get Help! Link/icon at the bottom right corner of every page** in Western Online.
- Instructions for using the Virtual Assistant can be found at https://wiu.edu/citr/home/get_help.php.
- All other technical support, including issues with enrollment in online courses, should be requested by contacting:

University Technology (uTech) Support Center

Website: http://www.wiu.edu/university_technology/

Phone: (309)298-TECH (8-8324)

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) is your go-to resource at any stage of the writing process! Appointments are available in three formats: in-person (3rd Floor, Malpass Library or QC Complex 2219), online (real-time with video or chat and document sharing), and e-tutoring (asynchronous feedback on an uploaded paper).

Visit wiu.mywconline.com to schedule an appointment, or call (309) 298-2814. **Fall 2023 UWC Hours at the 3rd Floor, Malpass Library:** M – Th: 9 AM - 9 PM, F: 9 AM - 4 PM, and Sun: 2 - 9 pm.

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 15	Dr. Martin Luther King Day – No Class/ University Closed
Monday, Feb 12	Lincoln’s Birthday – No Class/ University Closed
March 11 – 15	Spring Break – No Class/ University Closed
Sunday, March 31	Last day to drop classes or withdraw from the university
Monday, May 06	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%
Term Project	20%	C+ = 77 - 79.99%	F = <60%
Total	100%		

Grade breaking points may be lowered, but they will never be raised. These breaking points will be evaluated only after calculating final numerical grades.

Attention Education Majors: With the changes within the Illinois State Teaching License requirements, students are required to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course 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 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

TERM PROJECT: Trade paper and presentation

Individual Trade Paper: Students will submit a research paper on a specific U.S. trade topic. Please arrange to meet with the instructor in the third week of the semester to select a topic. The paper must be written academically. The final version must be submitted on April 19 by 11:59 p.m. via Dropbox, with 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 points, double-spaced, and 1-inch margins. The references section must be done using Chicago or Harvard styles.

Paper presentations: At the end of the semester, students will make a 10-minute 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 mistakes to the instructor's attention immediately.

ACCREDITATION:

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

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 15 – Jan 19	Introduction to agricultural trade <i>Jan 15 – Dr. Martin Luther King Day – No class</i>	1	Due: Friday, Jan 19 ▪ Quiz 1
2	Jan 22 – Jan 26	Gains from trade	2	Due: Friday, Jan 26 ▪ Quiz 2
3	Jan 29 – Feb 02	Trade policies of importing countries	3	Due: Friday, Feb 02 ▪ Quiz 3
4	Feb 05 – Feb 09	Trade policies of importing countries	3	Due: Friday, Feb 09 ▪ Quiz 4
5	Feb 12 – Feb 16	Trade policies of exporting countries <i>Feb 12 – Lincoln’s Birthday – No class</i>	4	Due: Friday, Feb 16 ▪ Quiz 5
6	Feb 19 – Feb 23	Trade policies of exporting countries	4	Due: Friday, Feb 23 ▪ Midterm 1: Ch 1 – 4
Midterm 1. Feb 28				
7	Feb 26 – Mar 01	Technical barriers to trade	5	Due: Friday, Mar 01 ▪ Quiz 6
8	Mar 04 – Mar 08	Technical barriers to trade	5	Due: Friday, Mar 08 ▪ Quiz 7
9	<i>Mar 11 – Mar 15</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>No classes/ No homework</i>	
10	Mar 18 – Mar 22	Multilateral trade negotiations: the GATT and WTO	6	Due: Friday, Mar 22 ▪ Quiz 8
11	Mar 25 – Mar 29	Preferential trade agreements	7	Due: Friday, Mar 29 ▪ Midterm 2: Ch 5 – 7
Midterm 2. March 28				
12	Apr 01 – Apr 05	Agricultural trade and international development	8	Due: Friday, Apr 05 ▪ Quiz 9
13	Apr 08 – Apr 12	Agricultural trade and the environment	9	Due: Friday, Apr 12 ▪ Quiz 10
14	Apr 15 – Apr 19	European Union	10	Due: Friday, Apr 19 ▪ Quiz 11 ▪ Term Paper is due
15	Apr 22 – Apr 26	China	11	Due: Friday, Apr 26 ▪ Quiz 12
16	Apr 29 – May 03	<i>Final project – presentations</i>		No quizzes/ no homework
17	May 06 – May 10	Final Comprehensive Exam- Chapters 1 to 11 <i>Monday, May 06, from 8:00 to 9:50 a.m.</i>		

NOTE: Please be advised that this syllabus is tentative. All classes are different, and we 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.