ECON 4322/5321-01
International Finance and Global Business Analytics
Summer 2016

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Smallwood
Office Location: COBA 327
Phone: (817) 272-3061
Email: smallwood@uta.edu
Course Webpage: Blackboard will be used throughout the course.
Time and Location: M-W 5:30 - 7:50 (pm), COBA 245E.

Office Hours:
Monday 2:30 - 3:30 (p.m.)
Wednesday 4:15 - 5:15 (p.m.)
And by appointment.

Textbook: Formally, there are no required textbooks for the course. However, I will very heavily lean on the following readings throughout the course:

The Wall Street Journal
Foundations of International Macroeconomics, Obstfeld and Rogoff.

The world of international finance and analytics is ever-changing with exciting events impacting the topics on a daily basis. It should be noted that the course is very heavily skewed toward current events, and I will frequently discuss issues appearing in periodicals, such as The Wall Street Journal.

Course Description and objectives:
Despite its title, this is a course in economics, although there is a tilt toward financial and analytic issues. The course deals with issues in international macroeconomics that emerge as a result of trade in goods and services and financial assets. International transactions are often complicated by the existence of an exchange rate, the price of one country’s currency relative to another. Thus the course begins with an introduction of the exchange rate market, a discussion of balance of payments, and a discussion of various exchange rate regimes. The second phase of the course includes a discussion of hedging and exchange rate risk. We will discuss how traders can use derivative assets to both hedge against risk and to speculate. Time permitting, the final phase of the course will include a discussion of theories related to exchange rate determination.

By the end of the course, the successful student should be able to do each of the following:
1. The student will have mastered an understanding of the exchange rate market. In addition, the student will be able to assess the importance of this global market.
2. The student will gain a general understanding of the modern empirical theories of international finance.
3. The student will gain insight into the areas where empirical international finance and theoretical international finance sometimes differ.
4. The student will be able to access the importance of international finance and its relationship with the “real world.” This will be especially relevant given current events in China and Europe, coupled with recent developments in financial markets in general.

It should be noted that graduate students will be introduced to econometric methods in the context of international finance, and will gain an understanding of how analytic tools can be used in this context.
Grading: Course grades will be based on the following:

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<tr>
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<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes:</td>
<td>30% total (6% each)</td>
<td>25% (5% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #1:</td>
<td>35% total</td>
<td>32% total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>35% total</td>
<td>32% total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytics Project:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>11% total</td>
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I. Exams:
Exam 1: Tentatively scheduled for June 29, 2016
Exam coverage: determined by pace of the course.
Final Exam: August, 1, 2016: 5:30 - 7:50 p.m.
Exam coverage: Again determined by the pace of the course.

II. Quizzes:
There will be 5 unannounced quizzes given throughout the semester. To be successful in this course, you need to attend each lecture. The quizzes will test material that has been covered in previous class periods. There are no makeup quizzes. I will allow students to replace their lowest quiz score with a 100%.

Formally, I do not take attendance. However, there will be numerous current events that are introduced in the semester, and the class will be quite dynamic. There is not a good substitute for in class discussion, and so if you are unable to commit to attending each of our limited number of class periods, I do not believe this class will be a good option for you. Please feel free to discuss any specific concerns you may have.

III. Analytics Project:
Econometrics and analytics are important tools in global business and international finance. Graduate students will be assigned a project that requires the use of these skills in the context of international finance. Specific details will be given in the coming weeks.

Drop Policy:
Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student’s responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for nonattendance.

Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/).

Americans with Disabilities Act:
The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course should provide me with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.
Title IX:

The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Academic Integrity:

Students enrolled in UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

“I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.
I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.”

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of University standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

Electronic Communication:

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact University-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

Student Feedback Survey:

Students enrolled in this class shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

Emergency Exit Procedures:

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services:

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.