

ABUS 498-Special Topics: International Trade of Agriculture
Class Meets: TR 9:30 – 10:45 at GLNN210.

Instructor: Dr. Baohui Song
Office Hours: MW 9:30 – 12:00 or by Appointment
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I. Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to expose the student to the basic facts and theories of international trade. Focusing on US-China agricultural trade, this class will also introduce some trade terms (INCOTERM 2000) and practical operation of agricultural international trade business.

Specific objectives include:

- (1) to provide an overview of U.S. and California’s agricultural trade;
- (2) to introduce some basic concepts and theories of international trade;
- (3) to familiarize students with some commonly used policy tools in international trade; and
- (4) to introduce some trade terms and business procedures of agricultural international trade.

II. Grade

The final grade consists of four parts: Homework, Quiz, Project, and Two Exams. The points will be distributed as follows:

Components	Points	Percentage
Homework	80	16%
Quiz	100	20%
Project	90	18%
Attendance and Discussion	30	6%
Midterm	100	20%
Final	100	20%
Total	500	100%

Final grades will be based on the following performance standards:

93% - 100% A	73% - 76% C
90% - 92% A-	70% - 72% C-
87% - 89% B+	65% - 69% D+
83% - 86% B	60% - 64% D
80% - 82% B-	0 % - 59% F
77% - 79% C+	

III. Course Administration

A. Prerequisites - ABUS 101 or ECON 103

B. Course Organization

This course will use lectures, class discussions, handouts, and homework assignments, course projects to explore the concepts and practical operation of international trade in agricultural products.

C. Late Homework Policy

It is the policy of the agribusiness faculty to not accept late graded items of any type. Excused absence (i.e. jury duty, previous university commitment, etc.) from a graded item requires written notice personally delivered to the instructor well in advance of the scheduled due date. Failure to notify the instructor of an impending absence will result in an at least 50% deduction of your points.

D. Textbook

There is no requirement for Textbook. Reading materials will be posted on the WebCT vista. Students need to print by yourself.

E. Examinations

There will be two exams for this class, one midterm (100 points) and the final (100 points). Material covered in lectures, discussions, handouts, readings, etc. will be fair game for each examination. Examination question format will vary and may consist of the following types: objective (multiple choices, True/False, etc.), subjective (short answer and essay), or problem solving (mathematical and graphical analysis). Exams may be comprehensive in nature and there are no make-up exams. Students are required to purchase a 'Mini Essay Form' scantron for each examination. The final examination is not cumulative.

Examinations are due when called for by the instructor; points may be deducted for tardy submittals. Accommodations will be made for make-up examinations only for an excused absence (see III C above). The tentative dates for all examinations are listed at the end of this syllabus. The time and date for the final examination will not be changed to accommodate personal situations.

F. Homework

Homework assignments will be given throughout the semester. These assignments allow the student to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the topics covered in class. Homework due dates will be clearly specified on the assignment sheet. Completed homework must be delivered to the instructor during the first 5 minutes of class on the due date. Homework submitted via e-mail will not be accepted and no make-up homework will be offered. All homework assignments will be posted in the 'Assignments' icon on WebCT; hardcopies of homework will not be handed out in class.

G. Academic Rigor

This class will be conducted in a manner that conforms to the University's policy of academic rigor. The CSUC definition of academic rigor for instructors and students can be accessed at <http://em.csuchico.edu/aap/Undergrad/help/ARigor.asp>.

H. Other Information

It is recommended that students make and keep a copy of all assignments submitted to the instructor. In addition, students should regularly monitor WebCT for this course in order to stay current with course activities (i.e. assignments, grades, etc.). Note: CSUC considers e-mail an official method of communication. Students should feel free to discuss their individual performance with the instructor, whether it is their overall course grade or a score they earned on a single graded item. Professors are human too and occasionally a scoring mistake will be made; if a student has reason to believe a graded item deserves a point value higher than the one earned, bring it to the instructor's attention during scheduled office hours or by special office appointment. Due to privacy issues I will not entertain discussions about a student's grade immediately before, after or during class. I am willing to entertain a confidential discussion about any graded item within one week's time after it is returned to the class.

If the student's request is to "re-grade" their work, I may evaluate the entire graded item and the student's total points may go up or down. There is no formal attendance requirement. However, new material will be presented everyday in this class. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the notes or assignments for that day.

IV. Academic Honesty

Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for the respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards (e.g., cheating and plagiarism) must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions. The university's policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. It is the student's responsibility to know and understand the CSUC Academic Honesty Policy. The university's policy is provided in their catalog as well as via its web site at www.csuchico.edu/gisp/gs/public/gradline/honesty.htm. Ignorance of university policies or of what constitutes academic dishonesty is not an acceptable excuse in this matter. If there is evidence that the student has been involved in any form of academic dishonesty, they will receive an "F" grade for the course, be locked from WebCT, and a report will be provided to Student Judicial Affairs for further action.

V. Disabilities

If a student has a disability that requires special accommodations, the student must contact a counselor at Disability Support Services (www.csuchico.edu/dss/). In addition, the student should let the instructor know as soon as possible so the instructor is aware of, and can provide for, any necessary accommodations.

VI. Expected Student Behavior in the Classroom

- A. All students have the right and privilege to learn in the class, free from harassment and disruption. Inappropriate or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, nor will lewd or foul language.
- B. All class participants are expected to exhibit respectful behavior to other students and the instructor. Students may not read other materials (newspapers, magazines) during class nor should they carry on personal discussions with their peers during lectures, presentations, etc.
- C. Students are expected to turn off all pagers, cell phones and other electronic devices during class time.
- D. Leave a few seats open next to the door for those who enter late or must leave early.
- E. The class follows the standard set in the *Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities (EM 96-38)* and students are subject to disciplinary action for violation of that code.

ABUS498 TENTATIVE COURSE COVERAGE*

- Part I: Outlook of U.S. and CA's agricultural international trade
- Part II: Basic theories of international trade
- Part III: Some common policy tools used in international trade
- Part IV: Trade terms (INCOTERM 2000)
- Part V: Practical operations of international trade business

Examination Dates:

Midterm: Thursday, March 13, 2008 in class.

Final: Tuesday – May 20, 2008 (12:00 p.m.-1:50 p.m.)

*** THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**