Introduction

During the last few decades, the international economy has ceased to be a theme unique to each country, and has become a global issue, in which each nation’s government has tried, using various economic accords, to maintain and develop their own social and economic structures.

The economy exists in all areas, and influences nearly every activity of a given country. Protectionist economic policies of the last century have served to develop a free market economy, which to this day contains a number of important issues which are regulated through international treaties such as NAFTA, MERCOSUR, and the EU.

Are we moving towards a global economy? Is this a possible, or even positive development? Are we condemned to be either rich or poor societies? Do international treaties offer coherent, maintainable, long-term economic answers for such countries? Who wins and who loses in this global economic labyrinth?

All these questions and many more will be the primary topic of this course.

Goals and procedures

The course will attempt to provide the most complete overview possible of some of the most important commercial and economic treaties, including NAFTA, MERCOSUR, and the EU, in order to identify and analyze the key social and economic issues facing countries before and after adoption.

The course, therefore, will be structured to touch on the different commercial and social issues affecting each country, including the search for economic participants to help bolster or improve their current situation, as well as avoid future collapses.

Through this analysis of articles, statistics, and diverse materials from other Internet sources, the student will try to understand the social and economic reality of each country, their reasons for entering such treaties, and more importantly the consequences, positive or negative, resulting from said treaties, so that by the end of the course, the student will have acquired a clear understanding of the economic strategies of various countries.
Grading

The course will begin with an in-depth analysis of the NAFTA free trade agreement, including studying the economies of Canada, Mexico and the United States, followed by MERCOSUR and its members, and finally the EU, which will be looked at from a functional perspective from the view of Spain, including an analysis of the development and evolution of member states.

The professor, following an introduction of the basic economic aspects of the market, exemplified through the study of NAFTA, will guide students through the terms and essential elements of a commercial treaty, with special emphasis on the interests of each member country, as well as the results, both economic and social, of the treaty.

After studying MERCOSUR, and based on theoretical aspects discussed with NAFTA, the student will write a short essay on the differences and similarities between the treaties, with a focus on one of its member countries.

The EU, which is comprised of a bureaucratic maze, with its own parliaments and ministries, the professor will elaborate on governmental impact, and through the example of Spain, introduce the student to the problematic European economy. The student, with the guidance of the professor, will select one EU country, and analyze its economic and social aspects both before and after joining the EU. This work will be presented both orally in class as well as through a formal essay due at the end of the course.

There will be three written quizzes during the course, in which the student should demonstrate their capacity to analyze the topic previously presented in class. These will constitute 60% of the final grade.

There will be one written essay (20% of the final grade) on a theme chosen by the student. The requirements are as follows:

- Length: 5 pages
- Format: Times New Roman 12 (Double spaced)
- Bibliography and citations in MLA format

The student will present two versions of the essay. Due dates will be:

FIRST DRAFT    March 18th
FINAL COPY     May 10th

VERY IMPORTANT! NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DUE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE SYLLABUS

During the course, there will be three presentations in class, on a topic related to the markets studied in class. They will be individual, and last approximately ten minutes. The student, after consulting with the professor, will select a topic to present, followed by questions and discussion. These will constitute 10% of the final grade.

The rest of the final grade will depend on attendance and the completion of daily assignments. The final grade breakdown is as follows:

| Written exams | 60% |
| Essay         | 20% |
| Presentations | 10% |
| Attendance and homework | 10% |

Class attendance is mandatory. Each unexcused absence will subtract 2% from the final grade. It is important that the student attends each class and maintains a positive
attitude in an attempt to get the most out of the course. Due to the course being structured in such a practical manner, active participation in class discussions is also fundamental.

Grades:

- 100 – 95 = A
- 94 – 90 = A-
- 89 – 85 = B+
- 84 – 80 = B
- 79 – 75 = B-
- 74 – 70 = C+
- 69 – 65 = C
- 64 – 60 = C-
- 59 – 55 = D

Participation Requirements

Keeping in mind the sheer quantity of materials presented in Spanish, effective participation in the course will require an intermediate-advanced level of Spanish.

**ATTENTION:** The student will not need to buy any additional materials for the class. The professor will provide all additional materials needed for daily work.
Universitas Castellae

MERCOSUR, NAFTA Y LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

SYLLABUS DE LA ASIGNATURA

ATTENTION: This syllabus is merely a guide for the student. Some activities and readings may be changed or substituted depending on the progress of the class and needs of the students.

SEMANA 1

- Presentación del curso
- Aspectos generales de los tratados internacionales de comercio
- NAFTA: presentación y orígenes

SEMANA 2

- NAFTA: los intereses de USA

SEMANA 3

- NAFTA: los intereses de México

SEMANA 4

- NAFTA: los intereses de Canadá

SEMANA 5

- NAFTA: los resultados para USA y México
- EXAMEN 1

SEMANA 6

- NAFTA: los resultados para México y Canadá

SEMANA 7

- PRESENTACIÓN Y DISCUSIÓN DEL PRIMER PROYECTO INDIVIDUAL
  - La Unión Europea: inicios y formación
  - La Unión Europea: diferencias fundamentales con los tratados de libre comercio

SEMANA 8

- La Unión Europea: países miembros e intereses comunes y problemáticas diferenciadoras
- La Unión Europea: organismos de gobierno
-La Unión Europea: funcionamiento y políticas comunes. Los fondos para el desarrollo

**SEMANA 9**

- La Unión Europea: el caso de España. Características generales de la economía española
- La Unión Europea: la inmigración en España: aspectos positivos y negativos
- La Unión Europea: la relocalización industrial. Causas y consecuencias. Los Expedientes de Regulación de Empleo

**SEMANA 10**

- La Unión Europea: los planes de desarrollo regional: Castilla y León
- La Unión Europea: la crisis económica internacional y su repercusión en Europa
- EXAMEN 2

**SEMANA 11**

- PRESENTACIÓN Y DISCUSIÓN DEL SEGUNDO PROYECTO INDIVIDUAL
- MERCOSUR: presentación y orígenes

**SEMANA 12**

- MERCOSUR: características económicas, políticas y sociales de los países miembros y asociados
- MERCOSUR: la economía brasileña

**SEMANA 13**

- MERCOSUR: la economía argentina
- MERCOSUR: Uruguay y Paraguay
- MERCOSUR: países asociados

**SEMANA 14**

- Futuro de los grandes mercados internacionales: Asia y África

**SEMANA 15**

- PRESENTACIÓN Y DISCUSIÓN DEL TERCER PROYECTO INDIVIDUAL
- EXAMEN 3. DESPEDIDA DEL CURSO