



**ECO 6958 001**  
**55255**  
**Costa Rica Study Tour**  
**Summer 2017 (Term 1)**  
**OFF Campus**

**Professor Information**

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**Office Hours**

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 – 6pm

**Recommended Text and Materials**

Internet Readings

**Course Description**

The Field Experience in International Economics (Costa Rica) course is an instruction and tour program that studies production and allocation of resources in Costa Rica. The course focuses on business and economic development in Costa Rica.

The course looks at the organizational frameworks related to resource allocation in Costa Rica, the role of the international economy (through the operation of multinational corporations and the conduct of international trade and finance), and the importance of cultural differences in business development and practices. This course will help students gain a better understanding of:

- How exchange rate markets operate
- How business practices differ in developed and developing countries
- The importance of international capital flows, trade, and migration to economic development
- Comparative advantage in international trade
- The operation of free zones

This course is designed to increase students' knowledge of Central America and in particular, Costa Rica, through instruction, field trips, and independent research. It will also help to develop basic techniques of research writing.

The Field Study course in International Economics (Costa Rica) includes the Field Experience Tour to Costa Rica. The Costa Rica Field Study course includes lectures from educators and practitioners, tours of transnational corporations and local firms, visit to an active volcano, visit to the free zone, and visit to eco-tourism facilities.

### **Course Prerequisites and Credit Hours**

Undergraduate level [ECO 2013](#) Minimum Grade of C or Graduate level [ECO 2013](#) Minimum Grade of C and Undergraduate level [ECO 2023](#) Minimum Grade of C or Graduate level [ECO 2023](#) Minimum Grade of C) or (Undergraduate level [ECO 3003](#) Minimum Grade of C or Graduate level [ECO 3003](#) Minimum Grade of C) or Transient Exemption 1

- **3 Credits**

### **Course Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to

- Apply international monetary economics theories to real world events
- Discuss in a more critical manner major economic policies, their implementation and goals
- Link domestic economic policies to the international economy
- Better understand the complexity and necessity of government intervention in the economy through economic policies
- Rationalize the behavior of customs unions, free trade areas and other regional blocs in an international setting.
- Identify factors that determine exchange rates and their fluctuations
- Compare different types of international monetary systems used

### **Grading Scale**

<b>A</b>	<b>100 – 95%</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>77 – 74%</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>94 – 90%</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>73 – 70%</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>89 – 88%</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>69 – 68%</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>87 – 84%</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>67 – 64%</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>83 – 80%</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>63 – 60%</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>79 – 78%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>59 – 0%</b>

### **Course Evaluation Method**

Attendance at April 15 & April 29 Lectures	15%
Pre-Trip Assignment	20%
Attendance, Participation, and Professionalism	25%
Post-Trip Paper	40%

### **Additional Course Policies**

#### **Missing Assignment**

Missing assignment will result in a zero grade

#### **Late Assignments**

Writing assignments will be accepted after the due date; however, your grade will be reduced as described in the assignment instructions.

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled activities related to this course on time. If there is an emergency that prevents him/her from attending a scheduled activity, he/she is to call the Economics Department or Dr. Chiang. If Dr. Chiang or the Economics Department is not available, the student should leave a message regarding his/her absence. Unexcused absences demonstrate unprofessional behavior by the student and will result in a deduction of 10% for the activity.

### **Anti-plagiarism Software (TurnItIn)**

Written components of any assignment or project may be submitted to anti-plagiarism software to evaluate the originality of the work. Any students found to be submitting work that is not their own will be deemed in violation of the University's honor code discussed above. Similarity index above 40% but less than 50% will result in a 10% reduction of the grade; similarity index above 50% but less than 60% will result in a 20% reduction of the grade; similarity index above 60% but less than 70% will result in a 30% reduction of the grade; similarity index above 70% will result in a failing grade of 50%.

### **Course Outline**

#### **Pre-trip Lectures and Meetings:**

- Saturday, April 15, 2017
  - Lecture: Overview of Latin and Central American Markets
  - College of Business BU 101 (Boca Campus): 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
  
- Saturday, April 29, 2017
  - Lecture: FDI and Currency Markets in Latin America
  - College of Business BU 101 (Boca Campus): 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

#### **Pre-Trip Assignment**

All students are expected to become as familiar as possible with Costa Rica before traveling to Costa Rica. To ensure that this happens, all students taking part in this course are expected to write an overview on Costa Rica. Although this is a course conducted in the summer term, students are expected to complete the pre-trip assignment prior to attending the trip. Details of this assignment will be discussed on April 15, and must be submitted electronically by Saturday, April 29, 2017.

#### **Field Experience: May 6-13, 2017**

Students must attend all lectures, presentations, and tours in Costa Rica. Students are expected to keep a journal of activities and lectures to be used and included in the final paper for this course. The field experience will include lectures covering the following areas:

- Business Development in Costa Rica
- International Political Economy and DR-CAFTA
- The Service Sector: Distributional Activities in Costa Rica
- Environment and Eco-Tourism
- Manufacturing Sectors of Costa Rica
- International Monetary Arrangements, International trade and Growth In Costa Rica
- The Free Zone, Foreign Direct Investment and Development in Costa Rica

## **Post-Trip Paper**

Using the information gathered on the tour, students will write a research paper between 3500-5000 words (roughly 13-20 pages) excluding title page and references. The final paper is due on or before July 22, 2017.

Students may choose to complete their final research paper on a topic assigned by the professors or may write on another topic related to economic or business development in Costa Rica. While most of the information for the research will come from a trip journal, students must supplement this information with additional resources such as academic journals, company and agency websites, and databases. Additional details will be provided in a “Writing Guide” after the trip.

## **Selected University and College Policies**

### **Code of Academic Integrity Policy Statement**

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).

### **Disability/Accessibility Policy Statement**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS)—in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 131 (954-236-1222); or in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8585)—and follow all SAS procedures. Their web site is: <https://fau.edu/sas>

### **Religious Accommodation Policy Statement**

In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices **and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.** For further information, please see FAU Regulation 2.007 at: <http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter2/Reg%202.007%208-12.pdf>

### **University Approved Absence Policy Statement**

In accordance with rules of the Florida Atlantic University, students have the right to reasonable accommodations to participate in University approved activities, including athletic or scholastics teams, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the course instructor at least one week prior to missing any course assignment.

### **College of Business Minimum Grade Policy Statement**

The minimum grade for College of Business requirements is a “C”. This includes all courses that are a part of the pre-business foundation, business core, and major program. In addition, courses

that are used to satisfy the university's "Writing Across the Curriculum" and Gordon Rule math requirements also have a minimum grade requirement of a "C". Course syllabi give individualized information about grading as it pertains to the individual classes.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy Statement**

A student who is passing a course, but has not completed all work due to exceptional circumstances, may, with consent of the instructor, temporarily receive a grade of incomplete ("I"). The assignment of the "I" grade is at the discretion of the instructor, but is allowed only if the student is passing the course.

The specific time required to make up an incomplete grade is at the discretion of the instructor. However, the College of Business policy on the resolution of incomplete grades requires that all work required to satisfy an incomplete ("I") grade must be completed within a period of time not exceeding one calendar year from the assignment of the incomplete grade. After one calendar year, the incomplete grade automatically becomes a failing ("F") grade.

### **Withdrawals**

Any student who decides to drop is responsible for completing the proper paper work required to withdraw from the course. The last day for PMBA students to drop/add courses without consequences is 8/30/16 (courses are fee liable after this date). The last day to drop this course or withdraw without receiving an "F" in each course with full fee liability is 9/27/16.

### **Grade Appeal Process**

A student may request a review of the final course grade when s/he believes that one of the following conditions apply:

- There was a computational or recording error in the grading.
- Non-academic criteria were applied in the grading process.
- There was a gross violation of the instructor's own grading system.

The procedures for a grade appeal may be found in [Chapter 4 of the University Regulations](#).

### **Disruptive Behavior Policy Statement**

Disruptive behavior is defined in the FAU Student Code of Conduct as "... *activities which interfere with the educational mission within classroom.*" Students who behave in the classroom such that the educational experiences of other students and/or the instructor's course objectives are disrupted are subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior impedes students' ability to learn or an instructor's ability to teach. Disruptive behavior may include, but is not limited to: non-approved use of electronic devices (including cellular telephones); cursing or shouting at others in such a way as to be disruptive; or, other violations of an instructor's expectations for classroom conduct.

### **Faculty Rights and Responsibilities**

Florida Atlantic University respects the right of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions which do not impede their exercise.

To ensure these rights, faculty members have the prerogative:

- To establish and implement academic standards
- To establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each class
- To refer disciplinary action to those students whose behavior may be judged to be disruptive under the Student Code of Conduct.