



College of Business, Summer Semester 2020 Official Syllabus

ECO 4955 - 001

CRN: 58488

Costa Rica Study Tour

Summer 2019 Term 1

FAU, Off-Campus

Travel Dates: May 9 – 16, 2020

Professor Information

Professor: Dr. Rupert Rhodd
Office Location: Fleming West 101
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Office Phone: 561-297-2545

Office Hours

Tuesday/Thursday 10:00am to 12:00pm

Required 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

Prerequisite: 30 completed credit hours and a minimum GPA of 2.50
3 credit hours

Course Learning Objectives

After completing this course, you 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

Course Evaluation Method

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

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

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. Rhodd. If Dr. Rhodd 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 Meeting

- Saturday, April 25, 2020
 - Lecture: Overview of Latin and Central American Markets
 - College of Business BU 101 (Boca Campus): 10:00 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 25, and must be submitted electronically by Thursday, May 7, 2020.

Field Experience: May 9-16, 2020

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 Report

Using the information gathered on the tour students will write a paper between 2800-4500 words (roughly 12-16 pages) excluding title page and references. The final paper is due on or before July 18, 2020.

The trip report is a summary of observations and insights gained from the company and cultural tours in Costa Rica. Essentially, it is a summarized collection of your journal notes from the trip. While your trip report should incorporate all parts of the trip to some extent, try to focus your attention on the tours that best captured your interest. Try to avoid general information from the companies (e.g., information from the website or brochures) and instead focus on the interesting points that you learned from the speakers and the actual visit). Your trip report must be between 2800-4500 words.

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, please see FAU Regulation 4.001 at: [FAU Regulation 4.001](#).

Disability 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) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at <http://fau.edu/sas/>

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

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, observances, 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: [FAU Regulation 2.007](#).

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.

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 process required to withdraw from the course.

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 [FAU Regulation 4.002](#).

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.