I. TITLE:

International Trade and Agriculture

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Changing role of U.S. agriculture in a dynamic world economy; national and international policies and institutions affecting agriculture; exchange rates, tariffs, and non-tariff barriers.

Prerequisites: Junior, senior, or graduate student classification. AGR 130 or equivalent.

*To receive graduate credit for this course, a student must be admitted to graduate studies prior to registering for the course.*

III. PURPOSE:

This course is intended for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. Emphasis is placed upon international trade institutions and agricultural trade policies as they impact the volume and destination of agricultural trade. The role of the World Trade Organization, North American Free Trade Agreement and other regional trade blocs will be discussed. Emerging issues such as food trade with developing nations, issues relating to genetically modified organisms, trade implications of U.S. farm legislation and the trade implications of animal, plant and human health regulations are included.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course recognizes that international trade in agricultural products involves a blending of economies and politics. Therefore, general economic policies (such as monetary policies) will be part of the course because of their influence on farm income. More specific objectives are:

A. To understand the importance of trade to U.S. agriculture and the key elements of U.S. agricultural trade policy.
B. To apply critical thought and analysis to practical international trade problems using a partial equilibrium framework.
C. To analyze the impacts of trade policies, exchange rates, macroeconomic policies and other factors affecting U.S. agriculture.
D. To understand the implications of contemporary trade issues affecting U.S. agriculture.
E. To study the impact of international agricultural trade upon specific agribusiness firms.

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:

A. Introduction to agricultural trade.
B. Gains from trade
C. The impact of international trade and macroeconomic policy on production agriculture and agribusiness.
D. Trade policies of exporting and importing countries
E. Tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade
F. Multilateral trade agreements and the WTO
G. Competitiveness in the global food economy

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

A. Students will complete assignments and participate in large and small group discussions and activities. Participation includes active listening, contributing to group discussions, and working on in-class activities.
B. Students initiated activities include preparation for and participation in class lectures, discussions, and cooperative activities related to course goals and objectives, including:
   1. Reading assigned materials and identifying pertinent questions and concerns.
   2. Completing review and study question assignments.
   3. Participating in group discussions and cooperative activities.
   4. Performing successfully on exams and written assignments.
   5. Attending class on a punctual and regular basis.

VII. FIELD AND/OR LAB EXPERIENCES:

Communication with the instructor via Blackboard for those enrolled in class.

VIII. RESOURCES:

A. Personal computer with printer and web access.
B. See XII for text information.
C. For graduate credit students will prepare a 5 page research paper concerning a major US trade partner and present findings to the class.
IX. GRADING PROCEDURES:

Hour exams = 100 points each. Count best 2 out of 3 exams = 200 points
Cases = 25 points each. Count best 4 case scores = 100 points
Quizzes = 20 points each. Count best 5 quiz scores = 100 points
Attendance is taken each day. Missing class for any reason results in a 5 point deduction = 100 points
Final exam (comprehensive) = 100 points
Total 600 points

Grading scale:
90 – 100 = A
80 – 89 = B
70 – 79 = C
60 – 69 = D
Below 60 = E

NOTE: Graduate students will give oral reports on 3 supplemental readings assigned by the instructor.

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Please refer to the most current copy of the Murray State University’s Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin.

Points missed because of absences for any reason can be made up by preparing a two-page paper on a topic assigned by the instructor.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Please refer to the most current copy of the Murray State University’s Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin.

NOTE: The School of Agriculture Faculty have adopted and implemented an Academic Honesty Policy in addition to the University Honesty Policy, which can be found in the current Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin. The policy sets guidelines regarding acts of dishonesty and the procedure to follow should an event occur. It is each Agriculture student’s responsibility to obtain and read a copy of this document. The School’s Academic Honesty Policy can be obtained by asking for a copy from any Agriculture Faculty member or the Secretary.
XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES:

Handouts and supplemental material provided by the instructor or obtained from journal reading assignments and internet sources.

XIII. PREREQUISITES:

A. Junior, senior, or graduate student classification
B. AGR 130 or equivalent

XIV. STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Sabrina Y. Dial, Director of Equal Opportunity, Murray State University, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071-3318. Telephone: 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).

XV. MSU SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE CELL PHONE POLICY

The School of Agriculture recognizes that in today’s world cell phones are a familiar and often necessary form of communication for students.

It shall be the policy of the School that no cell phone usage shall be allowed in class and/or labs without the prior consent of the course instructor. This shall include verbal calling, incoming calls, email, text messaging, and use of cell phone calculators on tests and quizzes.

Cell phones must be kept off and out of sight (i.e. secured to a person’s belt or kept in a bag or purse away from desks and lab counters).

Should a student’s cell phone be visible, ring, or other form of unauthorized usage that is interruptive to the class or lab, the student may be asked to leave class and not return for that class/lab period.

Upon prior consent of the instructor, a student may obtain permission to have their phone on in case of an emergency or in critical family situations.
This policy also includes pagers and other electronic equipment such as blackberries and/or computers/laptops.