

American University – Central Asia

Regional Economic Integration

Lecturer: **Kubat Umurzakov**, Ph.D

Contact information:

Room 204/1

Mobile: 0 (550) 409540

e-mail: kumurzakov@mail.ru

Office hours: by appointment

Course objective: The objective of the course is to familiarize the students with the theoretical framework of the theory of regional economic integration, and its impact on trade and investment flows within the region and on the global economy.

Course description: Current processes associated with regional integration will be considered, including national development, economic interdependence and globalisation, and their political, economic, legal and social consequences. Students on completion of this course will have better understanding of how regional integration and globalisation are conceptualised and theorized.

Required text:

How to design, negotiate, and implement a free trade agreement in Asia. ADB, 2008. 150 p.

Jean-Pierre Chauffour and Jean-Christophe Maur, eds. Preferential trade agreement policies for development. A handbook. World Bank, 2011. 503 p.

UNCTAD Trade and Development Report, 2007. Regional cooperation for development. 195 p.

WTO World Trade Report 2011. The WTO and preferential trade agreements: From co-existence to coherence. 251 p.

Grading:

Exams – 35% each

Participation – 15%

Attendance – 10%

Bonus – 5%

The grading scale is:

A	90% and above	C	61% -65%
A-	86% - 90%	C-	56% - 60%
B+	81% - 85%	D+	51% - 55%
B	76% - 80%	D	46% - 50%
B-	71% - 75%	D-	41% - 45%
C+	66% - 70%	F	Below 40%

Exams:

Exams will consist of multiple choice questions and problem solving. Each test will cover a different section of the course material. Exams will not be cumulative per se, but there are terms and definitions you must appreciate in the early course material in order to understand the later course material. No make-up exams will be given unless there is a serious emergency. If any student has not notified me prior to the exam and misses the exam, that student will receive a grade of zero for the exam unless sufficient documentation is provided; whether or not the presented documentation is sufficient is to be determined solely by the instructor in all circumstances.

Participation and attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions where appropriate. Students who are not paying attention in class (receiving phone calls, talking, preparing for other classes, going out during classes for excessive periods, sleeping, etc.) will be counted as absent for this class. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet before leaving class.

Course requirements:

1) Students are expected to do their own work. Simply copying another student’s work constitutes cheating and is not acceptable. Giving and receiving help of any kind on an exam will be punished. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing receives an F for the course.

2) Classroom etiquette is expected from each student. This includes on-time arrival, and avoiding behavior that is disruptive to the rest of the class (i.e. private conversations, leaving during class, using cell phones, etc.). Orderly conduct is expected and anyone disrupts class will be ejected for the semester with a W, X and F.

3) We will cover a lot of material, therefore it is essential that you make a commitment to invest a proper amount of time and effort into keeping up-to-date on your studies for the class. The best strategy for doing well in this course is to attend all the classes, read the relevant chapters, complete all the homework assignments, and try to appreciate as many problems from the assigned textbook as you have time for.

4) Grade X can be initiated by instructor only and cannot be requested by student. This grade will be given if the student fails to understand the material for medical or family reasons. However, this is to be determined solely by the instructor in all circumstances.

Note:

I reserve the right to change the syllabus and the following course schedule at any time.

Course outline

Week 1	Introduction to Course	
Week 2	Theory of Regional Economic Integration: Overview	
Week 3	The world of regionalism: Old and New	
Week 4	Regionalism and the global economy	
Week 5	Regional Blocks, Building Blocks or Stumbling Blocks	
Week 6	The Political Economy of Regional Integration	
Week 7	Economic Benefits and Costs	
Week 8	Political and Economic Goals	
	Exam 1	
Week 9	Regional Integration and Economic Development	
Week 10	Selected Regional Blocks: EU, NAFTA, Mercosur, ASEAN, EurAzEC	

Week 11	EU	
Week 12	NAFTA, Mercosur	
Week 13	Regional Integration in Asia: ASEAN and others	
Week 14	CIS, EurAzEC and Customs Union	
Week 15	Course Conclusion: Future World of Regions	
	Exam 2	