INTRODUCTION

This course investigates the role of technology and culture in international commerce. These factors are generally assumed to be constant (the ceteris paribus condition) in most economic analyses. This course takes technology and culture to be change and exercising both short-term and long-run effects on international commerce. The first part of the course introduces major concepts and theories while parts two and three introduce current issues associated with technology and culture in the global economy.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand ways to integrate technology and culture with theories of international trade and development. This includes the analyses of property rights and institutions of international commerce.

- Ability to distinguish between long-run and short-run dynamics in the global economy associated with technology and culture.

- Operationalize and provide evidence for technological and cultural factors in international commerce.

- Provide policy-advice on a current debate or controversy in international commerce that arises out of technological or cultural change.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Come prepared to class. Attendance and participation comprise 15 percent of the grade.
2. Each person will participate in at least one debate in the class on a topic to be assigned the week prior to the debate. The debate and the ability to address counter-arguments and questions will be 10 percent of your grade. Debates begin October 4.
3. You will write three short papers, one for each section of the course. Each paper will be between 1200-1500 words and worth 25 points. The papers address topics covered in each of the three sections in the syllabus. Each of the papers addresses the class readings directly but also provides an opportunity for you to synthesize the readings and shape your own argument. In doing so, you are encouraged to carry
out your own empirical research. I especially advice that you examine the experience of a couple of countries or regions that interest you in each paper. Please use a professional citation format such as APA, APSA, Chicago or Harvard for all papers.

- The first paper will answer the following question: how and to what extent can we incorporate technological and cultural factors in international trade analyses? This paper needs to be argumentative and you should reference specific country examples (at least two) that you have researched.
- The second paper will be a take-home exam. The question will be given out on Thursday, October 25, and the exam will be due on Thursday, November 1, before noon.
- The third paper will be a policy options brief dealing with a recent cultural controversy in international commerce. Whatever your topic, you will be expected to do the following: (a) the introduction will specify the economic and cultural issue or dilemma for which you are proposing policy options, (b) provide a brief historical and conceptual background for understanding the policy dilemma, (c) specify at least three or four policy options and the feasibility of pursuing each option or a mix of the options. This paper should apply to a group of countries facing the same problem. In exceptional cases, and after consultation, I will allow the policy memo to be addressed toward one specific country. This paper will be due Thursday, December 13.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

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<td>PART I: HISTORICAL AND THEORETICAL ISSUES</td>
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<td>McCloskey, Deirdre N. 2010. <em>Bourgeois dignity: Why economics can't explain the modern world</em>. University of Chicago Press. Ch. 1</td>
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## PART II: CURRENT ISSUES IN TECHNOLOGY

### Week 6: October 4
**Agriculture and Industry**


Vernon


### Week 7: October 11
**Services**


### Week 8: October 18
**Telecommunications and ICANN**


### Week 9: October 25
**Intellectual Property and Data Privacy**


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CLASS POLICIES

Specific Course Policies

- This is a discussion intensive class. Should there be an emergency and you are unable to attend class, please provide appropriate documentation. I discourage absence for any reason other than a medical or family/personal emergency.

- We will work closely with each other on all assignment and deadlines will need to be respected. Any delayed assignment will get a grade lower for one day it is late, two grades lower for two days of late work, and so on and so forth.

- Please turn off your cellular phones or switch them to silent or vibrate mode before coming to class. You are allowed one free incoming ring in the class.

- Use of laptop computers is allowed in class. Use of social media and e-mailing during class hours is not allowed. The only exception will be times when we look up global networks on social media sites to fulfill class goals.

- You can drink or eat in class as long as you do not disrupt the class with loud sounds, making a mess, or filling the class with exuberant aromas! I especially do not want foods in the class, which necessitate loud crunchy sounds.

A few George Mason Policies are essential for the conduct of this class.

- **Academic Integrity:** The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. GMU has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using Harvard or APA format. A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.
Diversity at Mason: George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

Disability: If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Office of Disability Services (SUB J, Rm. 4205; 993-2474; http://ods.gmu.edu) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs.

Privacy: Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See http://masonlive.gmu.edu for more information. I will send you any information related to your grade only on your MasonLive email account.