

## **Econ 4910 Syllabus**

Undergraduate Research, Sections UN, 3 credits  
Fall 2026

### **Instructor Information**

Instructors: Professor Usha Nair-Reichert  
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### **Description**

The main objective of this course is to introduce you to the principles of economics from a global perspective. We will study many different topics in micro and macroeconomics such as supply and demand, elasticity, market structures, comparative advantage, international trade in goods and services, national income, inflation, and fiscal and monetary policies in an open economy context. Throughout the course, we will explore ways in which nations, firms, individuals, governments and regional and international institutions and organizations participate in and impact the global economy. We will use the economic concepts and tools we study to analyze a variety of problems and policies in an increasingly integrated global economy. Please also keep in mind as we proceed through the course that economic decisions are made within the broader social, political and cultural context and environment.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcomes:

- o Intellectual Development, including the ability to recognize that problems are often more complicated than they first appear, that there can be more than one right explanation or even none at all and an understanding of the limits of their knowledge and an appreciation for what isn't known
- o Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, including using a reflective and iterative approach to problem solving, seeking the root causes of problems and developing or recognizing the most appropriate corrective actions, and recognition of flaws, assumptions, and missing elements in arguments
- o Practice & Process of Inquiry, including the ability to formulate questions and hypotheses within the discipline and to properly identify and/or generate reliable data, and show understanding of how knowledge is generated, validated, and communicated within the discipline
- o Ability to communicate their research in disciplinary and public settings.

### **Required Course Materials**

The professor will provide readings and ask to student to conduct literature searches depending on the specific research questions.

### **Grading Policy**

The course grade is out of a total of 100 points.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Above 90%	A
Less than 90% and 80% or above	B
Less than 80% and 70% or above	C
Less than 70% and 60% or above	D
Less than 60%	F

### **Assignments and Exams**

The final grades will be based on the following:

- (a) 3 assignments (15 points each for a total of 45 points). Late submissions will not be accepted.
- (b) The final research paper is worth 55 points.

### **Description of Graded Components**

- i. Assignments 1, 2 and 3 are updates on the progress of the research: (1) identifying the research question and literature review, (2) assembling the dataset and refining the methodology, and (3) analysis and conclusions
- ii. The final report will build on the research discussed in assignments 1, 2 and 3 and include additional analysis as needed, robustness checks, conclusions and policy implications.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Attendance and Participation**

You are expected to attend classes regularly and participate in all in-class assignments. If you have a valid reason for being absent, such as illness (supported by a doctor's note excusing you from class) and miss an exam, you will be permitted to make up the missed exam by assigning higher weights to other exams before you take those exams.

### **Academic Integrity**

The Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code is enforced at all times. All exams and homework are individual efforts, so you cannot give help to or receive help from anyone inside or outside the class. You cannot use Chegg or any other online resource, and you cannot take help from anyone. You can find more information about the honor code at <http://honor.gatech.edu/content/2/the-honor-code>

### **Accommodation through Office of Disability Services**

Georgia Tech offers accommodations to students with disabilities. Please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) if you require such accommodation. If you already have a letter from the ODS approving specific accommodation, please be sure to email me a copy of that letter. Please be sure to arrange with ODS to take all your exams with the necessary accommodation early in the semester. If you need to speak with me, please email me, and we can find a time to meet over Zoom.

### **Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement**

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

I expect you to commit the same amount of time you would for any other 3 credit hour course. We will meet weekly at a mutually convenient time. We will have a shared DropBox folder for this course. Please create a document where you record a summary of our discussion and the deliverables for the next week after each meeting. Please update the Dropbox folder with your

work for the week by 5pm the day prior to our weekly meeting, as that will give me time to review your work.

### **Campus Resources**

The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) provides resources and support for undergraduate research students and their mentors. Visit <https://undergradresearch.gatech.edu/> or contact UROP at [urop@gatech.edu](mailto:urop@gatech.edu) for more information.