



Indiana University Bloomington
Department of Economics
ECON 331: International Trade – Fall 2025
Syllabus

Class Location: SY 137 Class Timing: Tues & Thurs, 11:10–12:25 PM Email: enabera@iu.edu	Instructor: Enakshi Bera Office: WY 307 Office Hours: T & Th 2–3 PM
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Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the theory and policy of international trade. Topics include comparative advantage, economies of scale, trade policy instruments, and trade agreements. We will study both theoretical foundations and real-world applications.

Required Textbook: [KOM] Krugman, Obstfeld, and Melitz. *International Economics: Theory and Policy*. Addison-Wesley.

Exams, Homework & Grades

Exams: There will be three in-class exams. The first two would be 25% each and the last one would account for 30% of the total grade. The exams will cover lecture materials and assigned readings. All exams are closed-book and closed-notes. There will be both essay-type and multiple-choice questions. Students are permitted to have a basic calculator during the exam.

Exam 1: Thursday, Oct 2nd Exam 2: Thursday, Nov 6
Exam 3: Thursday, Dec 11

Your schedule must permit you to take the Final Exam on Tuesday, Dec 11, from 11:10–12:25 PM.

Homework/Quizzes: Short in-class quizzes will be given throughout the semester and will account for **15%** of your grade. To accommodate occasional absences or off-days, your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped. Because of this policy, **no make-up quizzes will be given**. Each quiz submission, even if incorrect, will earn one participation point.

Trade Policy Research: Students are required to research the topic of free trade and develop arguments both for and against the resolution: **"The best trade policy is free trade."** This project will count for 5% of your grade. You will submit two short written outlines: the first is due on **September 2, 2025**, and the second later in the semester, incorporating theories and policies from class. On September 2, students may be randomly selected to present one or two arguments for or against the resolution in class.

Course Structure

- **Module I:** Aggregate Gains from International Trade (Ch. 1, 2, 3–5)
- **Module II:** Distributional Effects of International Trade (Ch. 7–8)
- **Module III:** International Trade Policy and Cooperation (Ch. 9–12)

Grading Breakdown and Scale

Component	Points	% of Total	Grade	Points	Percentage
Homeworks	80	16%	A+	500–485	100–97%
Memo	70	14%	A	484–460	96–92%
Exam 1	100	20%	A–	459–440	91–88%
Exam 2	100	20%	B+	439–425	87–85%
Final Exam	150	30%	B	424–405	84–81%
Total	500	100%	B–	404–385	80–77%
			C+	384–370	76–74%
			C	369–350	73–70%
			C–	349–335	69–67%
			D+	334–320	66–64%
			D	319–300	63–60%
			D–	299–275	59–55%
			F	274–0	Below 55%

Grading Policy

Write clearly and legibly. Show your work. All exams are graded on a 0–100 scale. Subjective components (e.g. essays) will be graded based on reasoning, clarity, structure, and relevance.

Course Organization, Policies, and Useful Information

Course Organization: There will be interactive in-person lectures and Canvas will be used as the primary platform to facilitate this course. The course outline, assignments, announcements, reading materials, grades, class updates, and other resources will be available on Canvas. Kindly ensure to check Canvas regularly. Any announcements posted there will be considered official communication (e.g., delayed due dates, exam info, etc.). Students can contact me via email and can expect a response within 48 weekday hours.

Course Expectations: I expect you to work hard to understand the material and seek help when needed. If you struggle despite reviewing the material multiple times, you must reach out for help. Stay on top of assignments and deadlines. Professionalism and respect toward your classmates and instructor are required at all times. My goal is to maintain a supportive learning environment. I will strive to be well-prepared for each class and make the material as clear as possible. You can expect fairness in grading and approachability in handling questions.

Make-up Policy: Make-ups are available only for University-approved absences or documented medical issues. Make-up exams must be completed within one week of the scheduled exam. No make-ups for quizzes and, trade policy research.

Valid Absences: Extensions, make-up exams, excused absences, and more will ONLY be granted for valid excuses. These include illness or injury lasting more than five days (note from healthcare provider stating “unable to attend”), family emergencies (email me ASAP), certain university approved activities (university documentation at least one week prior), or certain religious holiday (notification in the first three weeks of class).

Academic Misconduct: Academic dishonesty—including cheating, plagiarism, fabricating information, or assisting others in dishonest acts—is strictly prohibited. Violations will result in at least a zero on the assignment and may lead to an **F** in the course. Students are responsible for reviewing IU’s Academic Integrity Policy.

Note-Selling and Posting: Selling or posting course content (assignments, slides, etc.) online or elsewhere—even after the course ends—is strictly forbidden. Violators will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and may also face consequences for breaching IU’s IT and intellectual property policies.

Use of AI: Use of AI systems (e.g., ChatGPT, Bard, DALL-E) to generate content, calculations, or answers is prohibited for all coursework unless explicitly permitted by the instructor. Unauthorized use will be treated as academic misconduct.

Messaging Platforms: Sharing or discussing answers on platforms such as GroupMe, Discord, etc., without explicit instructor permission, is considered cheating. All members of such threads may be held accountable.

Accessible Educational Services: Students with documented disabilities should contact

the Office of Accessible Educational Services (AES) as early as possible to ensure timely accommodation. Services are confidential, non-retroactive, and may take weeks to implement. Please share your AES form within the first week of class.

Add/Drop Classes: You can adjust your class schedule using the e-Drop/e-Add system during the first week or for future terms. Make sure to check the last day to withdraw with an automatic “W”.

Student Resources

- **UITS Support Center:** 24/7 technical support – 812-855-6789 or ithelp@iu.edu
- **Knowledge Base:** Search IU IT help resources.
- **Academic Support Center:** Tutoring services for various subjects.
- **Protect IU:** Emergency: 911 — Non-emergency: (812)-855-4111
- **Counseling (CAPS):** Confidential mental health support at CAPS.
- **Sexual Misconduct & Title IX:** IU prohibits all forms of sexual misconduct. Contact the Sexual Assault Crisis Service at (812)-855-5711 or a Confidential Victim Advocate at (812)-856-2469 or cva@indiana.edu.

Unforeseen Circumstances: University policies may require changes to course administration mid-semester. Any such changes will be communicated through Canvas announcements.