

ECON 3347-1: INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Contact information

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Office hours: Chapman 421 Monday 1:30pm-4:00pm; Thursday 1:30pm-4:00pm and by appointment

Class time: M/W/F 11:30am-12:20pm

Class location: Chapman Center, Room 104

Course description

A study of the economic theory of international trade and the development of the practices of commercial policy. Emphasis is on the economic analysis of a variety of protectionist policies, the international institutions involved in trade and protectionist issues, the importance of trade for development, issues in international capital flows, and multinational corporations. Practice is provided in reading and understanding published sources of data and analysis.

Pre-requisites and course materials

Pre-requisites: ECON 1312 and 3325

I expect you to be familiar with the concepts taught in Principles and Intermediate Microeconomics, including opportunity cost, indifference curves, and market structure (eg, perfect competition, monopolistic competition, and monopolies). While you can expect a brief review when concepts arise, we will not spend much of our scarce, valuable class time on them. We will also be using algebra and graphing throughout the course.

Required textbook: Feenstra and Taylor, *International Trade*. 4th edition. Worth publishers (*International Economics* works too)

A copy of the text is on 2 hour reserve at Coates Library circulation desk.

Additional readings provided on TLearn.

Grades

Your final grade will be determined by the following:

Problem sets (5-7):	10%
Midterm 1:	30%
Midterm 2:	30%
Podcast:	25%
Class participation:	5%

Problem sets

Problem sets will be collected approximately biweekly, with some exceptions. They will be due at the **beginning** of class on the due date. Points will be deducted from late problem sets. I encourage you to work with others on the problem sets, but all work that you turn in must be *your own*. I highly recommend discussing problems with classmates, then writing your solutions up later, independently. This ensures both that you know the material well enough to explain it on your own, and you do not unintentionally plagiarize (ie, passing another student's work off as your own- either verbatim or paraphrased). Problem sets must show all work on how you came to your answer. Be sure all assignments include: (i) your name; (ii) names of students you collaborated with (inside and outside of this class); and (iii) the Honor Code pledge. Randomly selected problems will be graded on each problem set.

Exams

There will be two midterm exams (see attached schedule for dates). Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, definition, true/false, and short answer questions covering the material from lectures, discussions, the textbook, and assigned readings. Anything that is discussed in class will be fair game for the exams. In addition to reviewing the lecture notes, I recommend reviewing the readings and problem sets in preparation for the exams. I will also provide a practice exam with solutions.

Podcast

In lieu of a cumulative final exam, you will create a podcast with a small group on a current international trade debate. You are invited to make a critical analysis of multiple perspectives on the issue and express your own opinion(s) about it. The podcast will be no more than 25 minutes in length and all group members should contribute roughly equally. The grade will be broken into different components: (i) the process; (ii) the podcast itself; and (iii) two written peer reviews of another group's podcast. Podcasts should address the background of the debate, key perspectives, your own position (or your groups') and a defense of that position using economic tools and concepts. Sources should be verbally cited, with full references submitted. Podcasts will be made publically available and should cater to a general audience.

We will discuss more details of the podcast before Fall Break. Intermediate deadlines include:

- Group/topic selection preference: a Google form where you can indicate preferences for teammates and topics (I will try to honor all requests, but cannot guarantee it!)
- Initial podcast: Group submission of a 10 minute (at most) introduction to your topic. This will give the background and let you experiment with the technology.
- Peer review 1: Individuals will be assigned another introductory podcast to peer review (1-2 pages). Groups will receive the anonymous feedback to incorporate in the final podcast.

- Annotated bibliography: Groups will submit an annotated bibliography with 4 sources.
- Final podcast: Groups submit final product and bibliography of sources.
- Peer review 2: Individuals will complete a peer review of another group's podcast.

Technology and Classroom Participation

The best way to learn the material for this course is through attending class. Each student will be granted two no-questions-asked absences before additional absences will impact the participation grade. Absences for religious holidays and school-sponsored absences must be documented well in advance. Class-time will involve both lecture and discussion of the readings. In order to participate, you must complete the reading before class. Readings will come from the textbook and outside articles which will be provided on TLearn. We will use Poll Everywhere periodically. Responses can be submitted through smart phones or web browsers. If I note that the presence of technology is becoming a distraction instead of a learning tool, I will have to limit its use. If you are unable to submit a response through available technology, you may submit a response on paper with your name.

Accessibility

If you have a disability or suspect that you may have a disability that requires reasonable accommodations, it is the policy of the University for students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Please contact the office at (210)999-8528 or sas@trinity.edu to make an appointment with a SAS representative to determine reasonable accommodations. Once registered with SAS, the office will provide me with an accommodation letter. Faculty are not obligated to implement accommodations prior to receiving documentation from SAS. Once registered, students are expected to meet with faculty as soon as possible to discuss how accommodations will be implemented in the classroom. All discussions will remain confidential. Please be aware that accommodations cannot be enacted retroactively, making timeliness a critical aspect for their provision. For more information, please see the SAS website: <http://www.trinity.edu/SAS>.

Intellectual Responsibility

All students are covered by a policy that prohibits dishonesty in academic work. Under the Honor Code, a faculty member will (or a student may) report an alleged violation to the Academic Honor Council. It is the task of the Council to investigate, adjudicate, and assign a punishment within certain guidelines if a violation has been verified. Students are required to pledge all written work that is submitted for a grade: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this work" and their signature. The pledge may be abbreviated "pledged" with a signature. Failure to abide by the Honor Code may result in an F on the assignment, exam, or in the course.

<i>W</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings and Assignments</i>
I. Introduction to International Trade			
1	8/21 8/23	Intro to course and patterns of trade Intro to trade	Ch. 1
II. Theories of Why We Trade			
2	8/26 8/28 8/30	Ricardian Model Determining price Gains from trade	Ch. 2 <i>PS 1 due</i>
3	9/2 9/4 9/6	No Class (Labor Day) Application and evaluation of model Specific Factors Model	Costinot and Donaldson report Ch. 3
4	9/9 9/11 9/13	Gains and losses from trade Model Evaluation Heckscher Ohlin Model	<i>PS 2 due</i> Ch. 4
5	9/16 9/18 9/20	Effect on prices Evaluation of model Movement of Labor	Ch. 5
6	9/23 9/25 9/27	Effect on prices Movement of Capital Effect on prices	Gibson and McKenzie (2011) <i>PS 3 due</i>
7	9/30 10/2 10/4	New Trade Theory Heterogeneous Firms Protectionism	Ch. 6 NYTimes article on used clothing exports
8	10/7 10/9 10/11	Review Library day No Class (Fall Break)	<i>PS 4 due</i>
9	10/14 10/16 10/18	Exam 1 Offshoring Job polarization	Ch. 7 Autor report (2010)
III. International Trade Policies			
10	10/21 10/23 10/25	Policy Intro Tariffs in small economies Quotas	Ch. 8 <i>PS 5 due</i>
11	10/28 10/30 11/1	Tariffs and quotas in large economies Protectionism, revisited Export policies	Ch. 9 Ch. 10
12	11/4 11/6 11/8	Export policies Strategic trade policy Strategic trade policy	<i>PS 6 due</i>
13	11/11 11/13 11/15	International agreements NAFTA/USMCA NAFTA/USMCA	Ch. 11
14	11/18 11/20 11/22	Labor agreements Environmental agreements Review	Krugman (1997) <i>PS 7 due</i>
15	11/25 11/27-29	Exam 2 No Class (Thanksgiving Break)	
16	12/2	Activity	
Reading and Final Exam Period 12/4-12/12 (Exam period: Thurs. 12/12 12:00-3:00pm)			