

ECON 331: International Trade
Hamilton College
Fall 2025

Instructor, Time, and Location

Instructor: Promise Kamanga (pkamanga@hamilton.edu), KJ 230A

Lectures: TTh 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM, KJ 201

Office Hours (Tentative): **Office Hours:** Th 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Course Description

This course examines the causes and consequences of international trade. We will examine why countries trade, what goods they trade, and who gains from trade. We will then study the policies countries use to affect the amount of their trade. We will end with a discussion on regional trade issues in the global economy, with a special focus on the role of the US in the global economy.

This course will address several of Hamilton College's educational goals. For instance, in examining the theory and the literature in international economics, we will achieve the goals of *intellectual curiosity and flexibility*, *analytical discernment*, and *disciplinary practice*. Through class discussions and presentations, this course will achieve the goals of *communication and expression* as well as *ethical, informed and engaged citizenship*.

Prerequisites

The prerequisite course is ECON 166.

Course Material

There is no required textbook for this course. The materials used are drawn from a number of sources. Similar information can be found in the following sources: Robert Feenstra and Alan Taylor's *International Economics*, the 7th edition of James Gerber's *International Economics*, and a free textbook by The Saylor Academy that you can access by clicking on this link [here](#).

Blackboard, Gradescope, and Google Folder

I will use Blackboard to record grades, share course material, and to send out announcements related to the course. It is your responsibility to visit the site regularly and to verify that your scores are properly recorded. The course has a corresponding [Gradescope](#) page. In addition to that, I will create a google folder where you upload your presentations and all supporting material.

Course Grading and Assignments

Your final grade will be based on total points. The assignment weights for this course are as follows:

- Participation - 5%
- Presentation - 15%
- Examinations - 80%

Participation (5%)

In-class engagement is critical to learning. This may entail responding to the questions I ask, asking informed questions, and by actively participating in class discussions and presentations. Simply showing up to class **does not guarantee** you a perfect score on class participation. To get full credit, you must be on time for all classes, be actively engaged, and keep up to date with class announcements and other forms of communication from me. While not required, attending office hours is another form of course participation. The classroom and office hours should be safe places to express your thoughts on the topics related to the course.

Homework Assignments (0%)

There will be no graded homework assignments. Instead, I will assign questions from time to time that you can use to prepare for exams. It is your responsibility to ensure that you understand how to do the assigned questions.

Presentation (15%)

Following Thanksgiving break, you will deliver a presentation on a contemporary international trade issue.¹ You will choose one of two options: either you can conduct a country-focused analysis to propose strategies for navigating the current global trading environment, or you can perform a product supply chain analysis to explore how trade policies affect a specific product and its consumers. This assignment is your opportunity to apply the knowledge acquired through this class and demonstrate your understanding of contemporary international trade.

Exams (80%)

Both the midterm and the final will be **closed-book and closed-note**, and each one of them will be worth 40% of your final grade. exams will build on and test you on the material covered in this course, including class lectures, readings, and the non-graded homework assignments. The midterm is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14 and the final will be on Thursday, December 18. **You must** take and pass both exams to pass this course.

Course Policies: Re-grade Policy

You must submit any request for re-grading in writing **within one week** of the day midterm grades are posted. Your request should include a cogent argument explaining why your responses warrant more credit. On that, keep in mind that if you submit a regrade request, I will **regrade your entire exam**.

¹This assignment can be done in pairs.

Course Policies: Communication

The best way to stay in touch is through office hours and via email. Although I can field assignment questions via email, I find this to be a very limited method of dealing with such questions. So I encourage you to mainly use office hours instead for questions to do with homework. As a reminder, if you have a schedule conflict with my office hours, email me to schedule an appointment outside office hours.

Course Policies: Code of Academic Conduct

I expect all students to know and understand the Hamilton College Honor Code, which is found on this link [here](#). Any violations of the Code will be taken very seriously.

Course Policies: Accommodations

If there are aspects of this course that pose disability-related barriers to your participation, contact the Dean of Students Office. Allen Harrison, the Assistant Dean for Accessibility Resources, coordinates services for students who have documented needs. **If you already have documented accommodations that give you extra time for exams**, the Accommodated Testing Services, located in Bristol Center Basement (room 018), provides a quiet, secure, and accessible environment to take exams. Contact the coordinator (mstratto@hamilton.edu) well in advance to request their services.

Data Science/Analysis Workshops

The data science/analysis research will be conducting the following workshops that you may find helpful. Please click on the hyperlinks to sign up. Spaces for some of these are filling up quickly; so don't delay to save yourself a spot!

- [Microsoft Excel](#) on 09/01 and 09/08 from 6 p.m. in Couper Classroom in Burke Library.
- [Introduction to CITRIX and STATA](#) on 09/03 from 6 p.m. in Couper Classroom in Burke Library.
- [STATA Refresher](#) on 09/04 from 6 p.m. in Couper Classroom in Burke Library.
- [Introduction to R](#) on 09/10 and 09/15 from 6 p.m. in Couper Classroom in Burke Library.
- [Data Visualization in R](#) on 09/11 and 09/17 from 6 p.m. in Couper Classroom in Burke Library.

You can find the desk hours and expertise of Data Science Tutors [here](#).

Tentative Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings/Assignments
01	Syllabus and introductions	
02	Global trade	Overturing the global trade system
03	Introduction to trade models	
04	The comparative advantage theory	
05	The Heckscher-Ohlin Model	
06	The gravity theory of trade	
07	The theory of tariffs and quotas	
08	Midterm Exam on 10/14 from 2:30 PM	
09	The new trade theory	Presentation assignment released
10	International agreements	The World is Abandoning the WTO
11	The US in the world economy	
12	The US in the world economy	
13	TBD	
Thanksgiving Break		
14	Presentations	
15	Presentations	
Final Exam on 05/18 from 2:00 PM		