

Sept 12, 2011

**Syllabus: ECON 436 – International Trade
Fall 2011**

Mondays 4:00-5:20PM and Wednesdays 4:00-5:20PM in RCH 305

Instructor:

Joel N. Blit

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Office Hours: Wed 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Objectives:

This course covers the key concepts of international trade. We will develop models that allow us to analyze whether there are gains from trade, the determinants behind the patterns of trade, the implications of trade for domestic and foreign economic conditions, and how governments can manipulate the patterns of trade. In addition we will look at trade institutions and discuss articles from the popular press.

Required Readings:

- Feenstra and Taylor. *International Trade*, 2nd edition, Worth Publishers, 2010.
 - Note: additional quizzes and exercises are available on the textbook website: http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/feenstrataylor2_intltrade
- Occasional supplementary readings from the popular press will also be posted.

Recommended Readings:

- Krugman and Obstfeld. *International Economics: Theory and Policy*.
- The Economist
- Trade Related Blogs:
 - <http://rodrik.typepad.com/> (Dani Rodrik)
 - <http://economistsview.typepad.com/> (Mark Thoma)

Prerequisites: Econ 301

Anterequisites: Econ 231, 331, 431

My Expectations:

- You will come to class and you will participate
- You will read the required readings
- You will stay on top of the material
- You will complete the problem sets
- You may want to do the practise questions in the textbook and on the textbook's website: <http://www.mhhe.com/appleyard7e>

Method of Evaluation:

2 Problem Sets date TBD – 10% of final grade
Midterm Examination: Monday Oct 31st (in class) - 30% of final grade
Final Examination: date TBD - 60% of final grade

NOTE: Students who write the midterm exam but do better on the final exam will have half of the weight of the midterm shifted to the final. Thus your final mark would be 10% problem sets, 15% midterm, and 75% final.

Absence from Exams:

Failure to write an exam results in a grade of zero. Exceptions will only be made under the most extreme circumstances and with a written note.

If you miss the midterm due to illness or other excused absence the 30% weight will be added to the final examination.

Course Outline:

The course will cover all the principal topics in the textbook and generally follow its structure. The following is a tentative course outline and is subject to change.

Sept 12&14 – Lectures 1&2: Trade Game and Introduction to the course

- Feenstra Ch. 1
- Article: “East India Companies”
- Article: “Falling World Trade”
- Article: “Shrinking Surplus”
- Article: “Foreign Trade Data”

Sept 19&21 – Lectures 3&4: Ricardian Model

- Feenstra Ch. 2
- Article: “Finding Your Niche”
- Article: “Why Trade is Good”

Sept 26&28 – Lecture 5&6: Specific Factors Model and Neoclassical Trade Theory

- Feenstra Ch. 3

Oct 3&5 – Lectures 7&8: Heckscher-Ohlin Model

- Feenstra Ch. 4
- Article: “Cheap and Cheerful”
- Article: “Krugman’s conundrum”

Oct 17&19 – Lectures 9&10: International Factor Movements

- Feenstra Ch. 5

Oct 24&27 – Lectures 11&12: Economies of Scale and Monopolistic Competition

- Feenstra Ch. 6

Oct 31 – Midterm Exam

Nov 2 - TBD

Nov 7&9 – Lectures 14&15: Offshoring

- Feenstra Ch. 7
- Article: “Offshoring: the next industrial revolution – Alan Blinder”
- Article: “Relocating the back office”
- Article: “Outsourcing: getting the measure of it”
- Article: “Offshoring is a win-win”
- Article: “How many U.S. jobs might be offshorable? – Blinder” – OPTIONAL

Nov 14&16 - Lectures 16&17: Instruments of Trade Policy, Tariffs under Perfect Competition

- Feenstra Ch. 8

Nov 21&23 – Lectures 18&19: Quotas, Imperfect Competition

- Feenstra Ch. 9
- Article: “The chickens have come home to roost”

Nov 28&30 – Lectures 20&21: Dumping, Infant Industry Protection

- Feenstra Ch. 9

Dec 5 – Lectures 22: Agricultural and High Tech Subsidies

- Feenstra Ch. 10
- Article: “The Doha Round.. and round”
- Article: “So near and yet so far”
- Article: “Boeing vs Airbus”
- Article: “Boeing subsidies”

Other possible topics:

1. International Trade Agreements

2. Labor and Environmental Standards & Review

- Article: “Race to the bottom for garment workers”

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline,
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4,
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 – Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals,
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Department Grade Revision Policy A grade in any ECON course may not be changed if 12 or more months have elapsed since the grade was awarded.

Deferred Final Economics Exam Normally, a student who has been ill (documentation required) and missed the scheduled final exam MUST petition the Department of Economics Undergraduate Office within 48 hours to write the Departmental Deferred Examination. If the student has failed to write the Departmental Deferred Examination, the student will automatically receive a grade of 0% for the missed deferred final examination. Please download and fill out the **Special Deferred Exam Request Form** and attach the supporting documentation before submitting to the Instructor for **departmental** approval. Due to illness on the day of the exam (and not that you are unprepared), you are given the deferred privilege. Please be ready to write the deferred exam on short notice.