

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
ECON 231-001
Introduction to International Economics
Winter 2021
Class Schedule: Online

Instructor Information

Instructor: Wokia Kumase
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Office Hours: Virtual and by appointment.
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Course Communication:

- Due to the covid-19 pandemic, this course is conducted entirely online. This means there is no possibility to meet on campus and everything will be done through LEARN, the university's course management system (<https://learn.uwaterloo.ca/d2l/home>).
- When sending an email, "Econ 231" must appear in the subject line and the message must include your full name and student ID number.
- Questions related to the course material can be posted in the group discussion forum on LEARN.
- Virtual office hours will be organized upon request through Webex or Zoom.

Prerequisites:

Econ 101 and 102

Course Description

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to the critical economic issues that result from a country's interaction with the rest of the world. That is, trade with other countries, international factor mobility, protectionism versus supranational economic integration, current account imbalances and exchange rate volatility just to name a few.

The course is divided into two parts: i) international trade and ii) international macroeconomics. In the first part, we examine why countries trade, how international trade and factor mobility affect economies within and across countries in terms of production, employment, consumption, and welfare, and how trade policies can alter the gains from trade.

In the second part, we study the foreign exchange market, its main determinants, as well as macroeconomic policy under floating and fixed exchange rate regimes. We will also discuss the international flow of financial assets in the world economy.

Course Participation Policy:

- Lecture slides, recorded videos and a summary of the points highlighted on the slides will be posted on LEARN on a weekly basis.
- Though you may work on our class anytime you like during the week, you will need to complete quizzes and assignments as scheduled. Also note that there are set due dates and deadlines. Additionally, interacting with your fellow students through the group discussion forum by sharing your experiences, ideas and knowledge could be very helpful.
- It is advisable to spend at least 5 hours each week, reading, completing quizzes and assignments for this class. However, the choice of WHEN and HOW long you work each week is up to you.

Required Textbook:

Krugman, R. Paul, Maurice Obstfeld & Marc J. Melitz: **International Economics: Theory and Policy**, 11thEdt., Pearson Wesley Publishers Limited, 2015.

MyEconLab that accompanies this textbook is optional but highly recommended.

Other References:

- Feenstra, C. Robert & Alan M. Taylor, **International Economics**, 3rdEdt., Worth Publishers, 2014.
- Salvatore, Dominick, **International Economics**, 11thEdt., John Wiley & Sons, Inc, 2013

Where to find this course outline:

This course outline is available at two locations for the duration of the term:

- Department of Economics website <http://economics.uwaterloo.ca/courses>
- LEARN web site (requires UW userid and password) <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>

Additional Resources Available on Learn

- The lecture overhead slides, summary documents and videos are posted on LEARN (<http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>) and should be considered as a complement and not as a substitute to the textbook.
- The LEARN site is down occasionally. Save the course materials to your computer as soon as they are posted. Always be prepared!
- The content of all exams will be announced on LEARN and a reminder sent by email.

Course Outline

Part 1 : International Trade Theory

Chapter 2: World Trade: An Overview

Chapter 3: Labor Productivity and Comparative Advantage: The Ricardian Model

Chapter 4: Specific factors and Income Distribution

Chapter 5: Resources and Trade: The Heckscher-Ohlin Model

Chapter 6: The Standard Trade Model

Chapter 7: External Economies of Scale and International Location of Production

Chapter 8: Firms in Global Economy: Export Decisions, Outsourcing and Multinational Ent.

International Trade Policy

Chapter 9: The Instruments of Trade Policy

Chapter 10: The Political Economy of Trade Policy

Part 2 : Exchange Rates and Open-Economy Macroeconomics **

Chapter 14: Exchange Rates and Foreign Exchange Market: An Asset Approach

Chapter 15: Money, Interest Rates and Exchange Rates

Tentative Class Schedule

Weekly schedule	Topic and Chapters
Week 1	Topic: Course Introduction & World Trade: An Overview Chapters 1 & 2
Week 2	Topic: Labor Productivity and Comparative Advantage: The Ricardian Model. Chapter 3
Week 3	Topic: Labor Productivity and Comparative Advantage: The Ricardian Model / Specific Factors and Income Distribution. Chapter: 3 & 4
Week 4	Topic: Specific Factors and Income Distribution / Resources and Trade: The H-O Model. Chapter: 4 & 5
Week 5	Topic: The H-O Model / The Standard Trade Model. Chapter: 5 & 6
Week 6	Topic: The Standard Trade Model. Chapter: 6
Week 7	Topic: The Standard Trade Model / External Economies of Scale and International Location of Production. Chapter: 6 & 7
Week 8	Topic: Firms in Global Economy: Export Decisions, Outsourcing and Multinational Enterprises. Chapter: 8
Week 9	Topic: The Instruments of Trade Policy / The Political Economy of Trade Policy. Chapter: 9 & 10
Week 10	Topic: Exchange Rates and Foreign Exchange Market: An Asset Approach. Chapter: 14
Week 11	Topic: Exchange Rates and Foreign Exchange Market: An Asset Approach / Money, Interest Rates and Exchange Rates. Chapter: 14 & 15
Week 12	Topic: Money, Interest Rates and Exchange Rates. Chapter: 15

Course Requirements and Assessment

Examinations in this course are based on the material contained in the assigned textbook readings and presented as lecture contents (which are strong complements, not substitutes). The course grade will be based on 2 midterm exams, 4 quizzes and a take-home final exam.

Quizzes:

Quizzes can be accessed by clicking Submit and then Quizzes on the course navigation bar on LEARN. Once you start a quiz, you MUST complete it. You may only take a quiz once.

Midterms:

Midterm reminders will be sent out by email. The midterms will cover specific chapters and will be highlighted in the email reminders and also posted on LEARN.

The breakdown is as follows:

Midterm 1	Thursday Feb 4, 10:00 – 12:00am	20%
Midterm 2	Thursday Mar 11, 10:00 – 12:00am	20%
Quiz 1	Monday Jan 25 - Sunday Jan 31	5%
Quiz 2	Monday Feb 22 - Sunday Feb 28	5%
Quiz 3	Monday Mar 15 - Sunday Mar 21	5%
Quiz 4	Monday Apr 05 – Sunday Apr 11	5%
Final exam (comprehensive)	(April 18 – April 19)	40%

Examination Policy

Missing a Midterm Due to Illness During the Term

- Missing a midterm will automatically result in a grade of zero for that midterm. If the illness can be documented with a UW Verification of Illness Form (the only acceptable document), with approval you may transfer the weight of the missed midterm to the final exam. This remedy is a privilege and not a right.
- Students are advised to notify the instructor in person about the missed exam as soon as they can. **Email notification and scanned VIF about the missed exam is acceptable.**

Missing the Final Exam Due to Illness

- Missing the final exam is a very serious matter which automatically results in a grade of zero for the final exam and possibly a failing grade for the course. **Please carefully read the Economics Department policy on deferred final exams for instructions.**
- No deferred final exam will be provided for students who missed all the exams (including the final exam) in this course.

- It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they write exams in the location, date, and time assigned to their sections. Students writing exams in the wrong section are considered not writing exams at all and will receive a zero mark.

Fee-Arranged Issues

- Students are responsible for administrative matters concerning their course registration including fee arrangements with the Registrar's Office. No make-up work or other remedies will be given for loss of access to LEARN and academic consequences arising from administrative issues with the Registrar's Office.

Attendance Policy

- Though you may work on our class anytime you like during the week, you will need to complete quizzes and assignments as scheduled. Also note that there are set due dates and deadlines. Additionally, interacting with your fellow students through the group discussion forum by sharing your experiences, ideas and knowledge could be very helpful.

Solutions to classroom exercises will be posted on LEARN but will gladly take them up during organized office hours.

Online Protocols

- Online group discussions take the place of in-class, face-to-face discussions, so think of them as an opportunity to dialogue with your classmates, not as a monologue that invites little-to-no interaction with the members of its audience.
- Replying to your peers is how you keep the conversation going. Keep your response short but purposeful. You may use a less formal tone in your responses, but always be respectful.
- Disagreement is an important part of academic discourse: when you encounter viewpoints and perspectives that differ from your own, your understanding of the issue under discussion is often deepened. Disagreement can, then, enhance learning; however, it can also result in hurt feelings and a breakdown of communication. To avoid this, it is important to be respectful in the way you communicate your disagreement. It is a good idea to acknowledge your classmate's point of view before suggesting an alternate point of view.

Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity Webpage \(https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) and the [Arts Academic Integrity Office Webpage \(http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility\)](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility) for more information.

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 \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing academic offenses and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (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. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline \(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties \(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm).

Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals \(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm).

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.