Politics of International Trade

Fall, 2017
RCH 212, Mondays 11:30am-2:20pm

Instructor: Horatiu Rus

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Office Location: Hagey Hall 203
Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 pm (or by appointment)

Course Description: This advanced-undergraduate/graduate political economy seminar proposes an examination of the political underpinnings of international trade, taking a national, regional and multilateral perspective. The material discussed is both theoretical and applied with special attention to key institutional arrangements – including interest groups, domestic institutions and international intergovernmental organizations - important to trade policy making.

Requisites: 4A Honours Political Science (or by permission)

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should:

- Understand the emergence and evolution of international trade policy in the pre- and post WWII period, as well as the novel aspects of its current challenges
- Understand the main economic arguments for and against freer trade and their limitations
- Become familiar with key concepts and institutions in international trade
- Understand the main debates around the key domestic determinants of trade policy making and their international role
- Become familiar with the most important policy debates pertaining to Canada’s international trade
- Develop familiarity with non-trade ramifications of trade policy and understand the interactions with other public policy areas such as: development, labour markets and environmental regimes.
Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

**Attendance:** All students are expected to attend class. Penalties for an unreasonable number of absences throughout the term may be imposed.

**Participation:** This is a *seminar*, therefore all students are expected to fully engage with the readings and participate in the class discussions every week. Each student should take an informed and reasoned position based on each of the reading components. A component of your grade will reflect this. (see below)

Requirements and Evaluation:

**Participation + weekly response papers: 20%**
Readings for class discussion and short written assignments will be assigned each week. Your *critical analysis* of these readings written up in a 2-page response paper is due (almost) every class. This material will also constitute the starting point for the discussion part of each class. Weekly papers will be marked on a binary (completed-pass or not completed-fail) scale.

**Midterm Exam: 25%**
This in-class exam will be based on the material covered in class and will consist of several short-essay questions. Tentative date: *Monday, October 30th, 2017*. Please note: Student travel plans are not an acceptable reason for granting an alternative examination time.

**Presentation + Referee Report: 15% + 5%**
Typically the last two classes are dedicated to student presentations. Each student will discuss the core argument of their final essay in a short class presentation. The use of slides and/or handouts is encouraged. Every paper presentation will be assigned a *student referee*, who will read the material ahead of time and will provide brief comments on the paper following the presentation. The intention is for each of you to receive constructive feedback on your work from your peers (referee and the rest of the class) *before* writing up the final papers.

**Final Essay: 35%**
This is a research paper on a specific topic relating to the themes of the course. The topic proposal must be submitted to the instructor for approval as early as possible, and no later than the week prior to the reading week. The final essay will be due on *April 7, 2017* and will consist of approximately 15 double-spaced pages (20 pages for graduate students). More information of the final essay will be provided in class.

**Late Policy:**
Late submissions of the weekly written assignments and/or the final essay will suffer a penalty equivalent to 10% for every day they are late. Unless with the instructor’s permission, no late work will be accepted more than 5 days after deadline.
**Study Materials:**

These Texts are available [online](#) via the UW library:


These Texts are on 3-hour reserve at the Dana Porter Library.


**Schedule and Readings:**

All students are required to read the textbook chapters and additional readings for every section. Please note that the list below is general and tentative. Updates are very likely and will be posted and announced in advance.

The course webpage on LEARN will provide a more detailed outline including links to many readings additional to the textbooks. While this .pdf will not be updated, the LEARN Readings page will be updated weekly.

Normally a campus (or off-campus proxy) internet connection may be required for free access to electronic journals.

I will make clear in class which of the readings are mandatory, which are optional, and which are the subject of the following week’s position papers.

**Topic 1: The Evolution of International Trade**
Reading 1: Hoekman ch.1: The Trading System in Perspective.

*Other readings:*
- Bernstein Intro-ch. 8

**Topic 2: The Positive Economics of Trade and Political Implications**


Reading 2: Hoekman annex 2: The Economics of Trade Policy: Basic Concepts


*Other readings:*
- Helpman, ch. 3.

**Topic 3: Key debates in International the Political Economy of Trade**


*Other readings:*
**Topic 4: Trade and Domestic Institutions**


Reading 4: Destler ch.1. Available at: [Reading http://tinyurl.com/k87ktxk](http://tinyurl.com/k87ktxk).


**Other readings:**

**Topic 5: American Trade Policy**

Reading 1: Destler chapters 2-7


Reading 3: Hocking ch. 2


**Topic 6: Canadian Trade Policy**

Reading 1: Hart ch. 1-3, 5-7, 14-16


Other readings:

- Canada’s role in NAFTA, CETA and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) - tba
- Canada’s State of Trade: Trade and Investment update 2014. Available at: http://tinyurl.com/ptbpm3j
- David Andolfatto, "Interprovincial Trade Barriers and the TILMA", SFU 2007. Available at: Reading http://www.sfu.ca/~dandolfa/tilma.pdf
- Jim Stanford, Trans Pacific Partnership: A Few Questions (http://www.progressive-economics.ca/2012/06/19/trans-pacific-partnership-a-few-questions/)

**Topic 7: Trade Multilateralism under the GATT/WTO**

Reading 1: Hocking ch. 7,8,10

Reading 2: Hoekman ch. 2, 8, 13, 14


**Topic 8: Trade Regionalism and Preferential Trade Agreements**

Reading 1: Destler ch.8

Reading 2: Hoekman ch. 10

Reading 3: Hocking chapters 2,3,4,5,6, 18


Other readings:


**Topic 9: Trade and the Environment/ Trade and Finance**

Reading 1: Hocking chapter 15


Other readings: tba

**Topic 10: Trade and Development/Labour Standards/Fair Trade**


Reading 2: Hocking ch. 9,16


Other readings:

**Topic 11: Final Essay Presentations and Referee Reports**

**Topic 12: Final Essay Presentations and Referee Reports**
University Regulations:

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, Student Discipline http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.

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, Student Petitions http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult Student Grievances http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

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, Student Appeals http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): Academic Integrity http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): Academic Integrity Office http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/academic-integrity/

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, 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 AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course. Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See Turnitin http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo for more information.