

## Economics 611.10 – Winter 2016

### Independent Study - International Trade and The Environment

**Instructor:** M. Scott Taylor  
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**Lecture Location:** SS 423  
**Lecture Days/Time:** M 13:00 - 15:45

**Office:** SS 428  
**Office Hours:** M: 16:00-17:30

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**Textbook(s):** *None.*

**Book(s) on Reserve:** *None.*

**Desire2Learn:** This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> using or through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

**Course Outline:**

This course is designed for PhD students with an interest in either international or energy/resource/environmental economics. The course is a readings course that will focus on key theoretical papers in these fields starting with key papers from the 1970s forward. This year the focus will be on papers that exploit or extend the theory of monopolistic competition to address important theoretical and practical questions. It is designed to be a hands-on workshop using simple general equilibrium models to answer theoretical questions. It is designed to hone student's ability to construct and analyze such models themselves. For Ph.D. students looking for research topics, this course may be quite useful in formulating a research question to pursue. Students are going to learn a bit about international economics, a bit about environmental economics, and hopefully a bunch about doing research in economics. The course would be a great complement to a specialty in international economics or environmental/resource/energy economics. We will be discussing in class academic research from journal articles, and some book chapters that I will provide. The required theory will primarily come from environmental economics and international economics but will also include straight micro theory and some growth theory as well. The plan is for me to lead the discussion in perhaps one quarter of these lectures, and for students (sometimes in groups) to lead the discussion in the other three quarters. We will work through a small list of 10 to 12 papers and study them in depth during the course. On days that I lead the discussion, I will provide a typical lecture. On student presentation days, the students will do the same either singly or in groups. Working through a paper means being able to derive and understand all of the equations and arguments put forward and be able to present such an argument to the class in real time (without notes). This is our goal for all of the papers.

**Prerequisites:**

This is a course designed for PhD students however MA students with a very strong technical background are welcome to attend. The course will use techniques and methods used in first year graduate courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and international trade.

**General Outline of Topics:****A Preliminary list of Topics and related papers**

1. The Beginnings of Monopolistic Competition:  
The Role of CES, the Home Market Effect, and Intra-industry trade.
2. Monopolistic Competition in General Equilibrium:  
The original Dixit Stiglitz-Spence contributions
3. Initial Applications in international economics:  
Helpman and Krugman
4. Applications in Macro and Endogenous Growth Theory:  
Romer, Grossman and Helpman,
5. Applications in Economic Geography  
Krugman, Fujita, Venables, Baldwin.
6. Inter-sectoral reallocations and expectations  
Matsuyama, Krugman
7. Within-sectoral reallocations and rationalization  
Melitz, Chaney

**Organization:**

The primary means of communication outside of the class will be by email list. Therefore, one requirement for this course is for each student to obtain and monitor an email account. All general announcements regarding readings, etc. will be made via email.

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

Department of Economics Criteria for Letter Grades. Economics professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding	C+	2.30	All grades below "B-" are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter	C	2.00	

A-	3.70	Very good performance		C-	1.70	
B+	3.30	Good performance		D+	1.00	
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance		D	1.00	
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies		F	0	

There will be:

- **One take home assignment/test 25%**
- **One short “referee” reports on individual papers assigned during the term (25%):** The short reports will be critical reviews of research papers or topics. Each report cannot be longer than 5 pages, double-spaced in 12 point font.
- **Class participation marks of (50%):** The 50% class participation is divided equally across your own class presentation/s and your contributions to discussions on other days. Individuals who audit the course are required to participate in class discussions but not complete referee reports or the take home assignment.

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, then converted to letter grades. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will apply:

A+	95 – 100	B	73 – 76	C-	60 – 62
A	85 – 94	B-	70 – 72	D+	56 – 59
A-	80 – 84	C+	67 – 69	D	50 – 55
B+	77 – 79	C	63 – 66	F	0 – 49

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

Non-programmable calculators WILL be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

There will be a department scheduled final examination, held in a classroom, lasting 2 hours.

Tests and exams WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions.

**Please note:**

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor within fifteen days of the work being returned to the class.
- It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

- Students who are unable to write the midterm because of an illness, family emergency or religious observance will have the midterm weight shifted to the final examination. Documentation MUST be provided.

### **Reappraisal of Grades**

**For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar I.2**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

**For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar I.3**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct,

<http://www.ucalgayr.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Academic Accommodation**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, Visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [www.ucalgry.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgry.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

### **Important Dates**

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

Faculty of Grad Studies website: <http://grad.ucalgary.ca/home>

Graduate Students Association: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>

Professional Development for Grad Students

Workshops and resources can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/>

Economics Graduate Association: <http://econ.ucalgary.ca/ega/>

### **Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

[www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints)

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course

### **Safewalk**

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

**Call 403-220-5333**