



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Fall 2010/Winter 2011
Course:	Economics 611.15 Advanced Topics in International Trade	Section:	01
Time:	TBA	Place:	SS 423 (subject to change)
Instructor:	M. Scott Taylor		
Office:	SS 428	Telephone:	220-8912
Office Hours:	MW 4:30-5:30 p.m. or email to arrange a meeting	E-mail:	mstaylor@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

There is no textbook required for the course.

Book(s) on Reserve: n/a

Course Outline:

This course focuses on a firm-level approach to the study of international trade and on selected topics in trade. In the first part of the course, we will discuss theoretical and empirical studies of the decisions to export and invest abroad, as well as recent developments in the intersection of the theory of international trade and the theory of the firm. The second part of the course will cover other topics on the causes and consequences of international trade. Topics include the effects of international trade on domestic institutions, conflict, child labor, and the environment, as well as recent research on alternative determinants of comparative advantage and trade policy.

This course is targeted to second-year Ph.D. students in economics. Students are expected to have completed first-year micro and macro theory courses as well as an introductory graduate course in International Trade.

Requirements:

If you are registered for this course, you will need to complete the following assignments:

1. Whenever coverage of a different paper begins, on the evening before each class, you must send the relevant instructor an email with some comments on the paper that will be discussed in detail during the class (please write “Econ 611.15” in the subject). The email should be short, but must briefly address the following points:
 - Why is the paper important (or why not)?
 - A description of the main features that best summarize the model.
 - What you like – or did not like – about the paper.
 - What parts of the paper were not clear or need further explanations.
2. You must write 2 referee reports on papers that are on the syllabus. If you feel strongly about a paper that falls into the topics covered in class but is not on the reading list, you may write a report of that paper with the instructor’s prior approval. You should also refrain from picking one of the papers that are covered in detail in class (please see me if you feel strongly about commenting on one of these papers). The referee report should be (approximately) 3-4 pages double spaced. The first paragraph(s) should summarize the paper for the editor and describe the main features of the paper as well as its contributions to the existing (or subsequent) literature. The report should discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the paper – contrasting it to others in the literature as necessary. You should describe how the authors’ could address the weaknesses (if possible) and give your recommendations for changes that would strengthen or enhance the paper.
3. You must prepare a brief (10-15) minute) presentation on a new project, related to the topics in the course. You are not expected to present a finished draft, but rather an idea and a brief outline of how that idea could be worked out. The presentation will take place the last day of class, after which you will have a week to write up a (3-5 page-long) proposal.
4. You are expected to participate in class discussion.

Grading and Deadlines:

The two referee reports will carry an equal weight of 20% in the final grade. The class presentation and written proposal will account for 40% of the grade, with class participation and summary emails contributing the remaining 20%. You may skip 2 emails during the semester without affecting this part of your grade. One of the referee reports will be due before the end of November and the other two will be due before the end of March. There will be no final exam.

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, and 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 generally apply:

A+	95	B	75	C-	55
A	90	B-	70	D+	50
A-	85	C+	65	D	45
B+	80	C	60	F	40

Students' Union Vice-President, Academic

Alyssa Stacy

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Students' Union Faculty Representative (Arts)

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Notes:

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor within two weeks 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 Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. 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 fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 403-220-5333

Emergency Assembly Point – Professional Faculties Food Court