

## Economics 619 International Trade I

Instructor: M. Scott Taylor  
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Lecture Location: SS 423  
Lecture Days/Time: TR 8:00-9:15

Office: SS 428  
Office Hours: TR 16:00-17:00

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### Course Description:

This course is part of a two course graduate sequence in international trade. Research in the field of international economics emphasizes both theoretical work and empirical analysis. This course is the first course and is designed to be primarily a survey course suitable for Masters students with an interest but no background in the field, and a base course for PhD students who are thinking of making international a major field.

This year Trevor Tombe is teaching the second course in international in the second term and he will focus on newer models of trade, quantitative and empirical exercises, and cutting edge research in the field. My job in this course is to prepare PhD students for future research work by providing a broad background in trade theory more generally, while at the same time giving MA students a good grounding in international economics.

The course will try to ask and answer three questions. First, why do nations trade with each other? Second, why do nations interfere in trade with tariffs and other policy tools? Third, what are the implications of trading opportunities for income inequality and environmental outcomes? The extent to which we get to answer the third question depends on the progress in the term with the other two questions.

### Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

The course objectives are for students to develop an understanding of what drives trade flows worldwide; to understand the set of simple general equilibrium models economists use to make sense of these flows; and to understand how trade policy interventions affect national as well as individual welfare.

### Prerequisites/corequisites:

Admission to the Master of Arts Economics program. No previous courses in international economics are required.

### Recommended Textbook(s):

For reference you may be interested in: Robert C. Feenstra (2004) *Advanced International Trade: Theory and Evidence* (Princeton University Press). For an interesting undergraduate introduction to trade theory and policy issues see: John McLaren (2013) *International Trade* (Wiley).

I will be using journal articles throughout the course, but the recommended textbooks may be useful as a resource for much of the material. They are however very expensive, so you may seek other options than direct purchase. For example, the basic workings of many general equilibrium models is available

in the textbook, but also elsewhere on the web. All of the research articles will be provided to you and available on D2L. If you are a PhD student then you should consider buying the textbook; if you are an MA student you will be able to get along without it.

I am primarily an applied theorist and the lectures will reflect that bias (limitation). There will be a strong emphasis on analytic work, general equilibrium modelling, and comparative static analysis. You will either learn or reinforce much of your micro theory in this course. Empirical evidence will be discussed but primarily in relation to how key facts and features of international trade led to a rethinking of the determinants of trade flows. Despite the course title (which changes often with the instructor), this course should not be thought of as an empirical course.

**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> 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.

**Grade Determination/Assessment:**

There will be two in class midterms each worth 35% each, followed by a take home last midterm in the last week of classes in December.

Two midterm exams	70%
Take home final midterm	30%

The two in class midterms will be given on Wednesday October 4th, and Wednesday November 8th. The take home exam will be given out the first lecture of the last week of classes, and due the last day of classes in December.

**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
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
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.

**Grading Scale**

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.

Tests and exams WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions.

**Absence from a Test/Exam**

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the final examination; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Department, they need to arrange for a deferred exam with the department.

**Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:**

*For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar 0.1*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/qs-o.html>

*For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar 0.1. B*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/qs-o.html>

*Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/qs-r.html>

*Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/qs-r.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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

**Important Dates:**

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

**Student Organizations:**

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 assembly point for this classroom is the Professional Faculties - Food Court.

**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.**

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:**

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.

**Internet and Electronic Communication Device information:**

The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. Computers and tablets may be used for note-taking only.

MST

2017-08-10