

Economics 619 (Economics of International Commercial Policy)

Instructor:	E. Beaulieu	Lecture Location:	SS 423
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Office Hours:	MW 10:15—11:00	Winter 2016	

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. Graduate courses in economics have traditionally focused on the theoretical modeling of international trade and have ignored the empirical literature in the field. The traditional approach has been to have one course focusing on general equilibrium theoretical modeling and a second course focusing on commercial policy. The trade expertise in the Economics Department at the University of Calgary allows us to offer cutting-edge courses in both empirical and theoretical international economics. Economics 619 focuses on the empirical analysis that has become paramount in the international trade literature. The companion course, Economics 621 focuses on the theoretical modeling that remains a key component in understanding the international economy and provides the foundation for empirical research. These two courses are complementary and can be taken in any order. Economics 619 examines important longstanding as well as contemporary issues in the empirical literature of international trade.

The course will be conducted as a seminar and will require class participation and involvement including class presentations.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

The course objectives are to develop empirical skills and research skills in order to produce research papers with a focus on empirical international trade. By the end of the course students will be well versed in how to start a research project and develop it into a final product. Students will also learn about data sources and analytical techniques related to empirical international economics.

Prerequisites/corequisites

Admission to the Master of Arts Economics program.

Textbook(s):

Robert C. Feenstra (2004) Advanced International Trade: Theory and Evidence (Princeton University Press)

Peter A. G. Bergeijk and Steven Brakman editors (2010) The Gravity Model in International Trade: Advances and Applications (Cambridge University Press)

Other useful books:

Gita Gopinath, Elhanan Helpman, and Kenneth Rogoff (2014) Handbook of International Economics Volume 4 (North Holland)

Feenstra, Robert C. and Alan M. Taylor (2011) *International Economics 2nd Edition* (Worth Publishers).

Krugman, Paul, Maurice Obstfeld and Mark Melitz (2015) *International Economics* (Addison, Wesley, Longman, Amsterdam).

Book(s) on Reserve: N/A

Robert C. Feenstra (2004) Advanced International Trade: Theory and Evidence (Princeton University Press)

Gita Gopinath, Elhanan Helpman, and Kenneth Rogoff (2014) Handbook of International Economics Volume 4 (North Holland)

Peter A. G. Bergeijk and Steven Brakman editors (2010) The Gravity Model in International Trade: Advances and Applications (Cambridge University Press)

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 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	

All students must comply with the regulations published in the University Calendar concerning "Intellectual Honesty," "Examinations," etc. Students will normally be evaluated in accordance with the marking scheme given below:

Written assignments	50%
Major paper	30%
Seminar presentation	10%
Class participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

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

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.

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

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.ucalgary.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/.

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.ucalgary.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

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