

## Economics 619(L01) International Trade II

Instructor: M. Scott Taylor  
Phone: 403-220-8912

Lecture Location: Web Based  
Lecture Days/Time: TR 8:00-9:15

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Office: SS 428  
Office Hours: T 5:00-6:00 pm.

Winter 2021

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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 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. Despite the course title (which changes often with the instructor), this course should not be thought of as an empirical course. It is more accurately described as a survey course given in a seminar course setting with very active student participation.

### Course Outline:

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 basic international economics. To do that, the class will discuss in detail several recent research papers in international economics. The class will discuss these contributions in lectures and students will be required to write "referee reports" on every article we discuss. Students will be expected to read research papers and prepare prior to class to answer questions regarding the readings. They will be called upon to provide input during lectures. In some cases, I may divide the paper's content into sections and allocate to students or student groups the responsibility of explaining those sections next class. Given the web based remote nature of teaching this is the only method I have found that ensures students actually make meaningful contact with the course material.

In some cases, we will need to consult earlier work to build up our knowledge, and for that we will refer to a set of excellent graduate notes from Yale that are currently being shaped into a textbook. The extent to which we rely on the textbook will depend on the class make up and experience. The papers we will discuss will be primarily classic contributions and new research written or published in the last ten years. I expect to draw these new research papers primarily from recent NBER International Trade and Investment workshops. An example of these papers is at: <http://papers.nber.org/sched/S191TI>.

Throughout the course, we will be asking and trying to answer four 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 labor market outcomes. Finally, how does international trade affect environmental outcomes? I will ensure that the paper selection covers these broad areas.

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.

**Course 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. In addition, students will learn how to critically assess a research paper, write this assessment in a useful form, and present their critique to the class.

**Prerequisites/corequisites:**

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

**Required Textbook(s):**

Elements of Advanced International Trade, available at <http://www.econ.yale.edu/~ka265/teaching/GradTrade/notes/ClassNotes.pdf>

**Recommended Textbook(s):**

None

**Books on Reserve:**

None

**Online Delivery:**

This course will be delivered online. Students are expected to be able to participate online in accordance with this Course Outline. Lectures, assignments, office hours, exams, readings and other course material, etc. all require online access and this access is the responsibility of the student. The instructor will make an effort to provide reasonable accommodations and flexibility as circumstances require. Students are expected to raise with the instructor at the beginning of the semester any potential concerns that require such accommodations.

In order to remotely participate in online courses, students will need to have: computer with a current and updated operating system (macOS or Windows will work with all university-supported online learning technologies), a current and updated web browser installed – the latest versions of Firefox, Safari, Chrome or Edge will help to avoid compatibility issues, secure and reliable internet, microphone / headphones, webcam (optional), scanner (or camera to scan your work).

**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.

**Lectures:**

Lectures will be delivered online at the Registrar scheduled times and delivered using ZOOM. The lectures will be not recorded. Materials from lectures and discussions will be subsequently posted to D2L.

**Grade Determination/Assessment:**

All of the grade for this course will come from written assignments or “referee reports” handed in during the term. The reports are typically 2-to-4-page reports describing the main research results, their limitations, and also contains suggestions for revision, extension or correction. Learning how to critically evaluate research is a key skill that students will learn in this course. There will be either 5 or 6 reports required during the term.

Referee Reports: 5/6 x (20-18%)	100%
	100%

**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.

A passing grade on minimum of 50% of the course work is required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

**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 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>

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

Student committing academic misconduct during the final exam will not receive a passing grade on the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

**Academic Accommodations:**

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. 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>.

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

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-students.pdf> and [http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-faculty\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-faculty_0.pdf).

**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 unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

**Copyright Legislation:**

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at [www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

**Recording of Lectures:**

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

**Important Dates:**

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/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/>

**Student Support and Resources:**

- See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on campus mental health resources, the Student Ombuds' Office, Student Success Centre, Safewalk, and Emergency Evacuation and Assembly.
- Online writing resources are available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Notes:**

Students are responsible for all assigned material, e.g., supplementary material posted on D2L, regardless of whether or not the material was covered in class.

MST

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