Economics 621 (L01) (International Trade)

Instructor: Trevor Tombe
Phone: 403-220-8068
Email: ttombe@ucalgary.ca

Lecture Location: ZOOM Delivery
Lecture Days/Time: TR 12:30-13:45

Office: ZOOM Delivery
Office Hours: TR 15:30-16:30pm  FALL 2020

Course Description:
Introduction to the analysis of international trade at an advanced level. Provides an overview of theories and tools used to investigate the major questions of international trade, including the determinants of trade and the economic consequences of trade policy.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:
Students will gain expertise in core models of international trade and learn to apply them to investigate important topics, including estimating trade costs, simulating changes in tariffs and trade policy on trade flows, estimating the gains from trade. Students will learn modern tools of international trade research (including Melitz and Eaton-Kortum models) and empirical techniques to analyze international trade data.

Prerequisites/corequisites:
Admission to the MA or PhD Economics Program.

Required Textbook(s):
None.

Recommended Textbook(s):
None.

Book(s) on Reserve:
None.

Course Outline: In this course, we will review recent developments in the field of International Trade, with a particular focus on bridging the gap between models and data. Throughout, we will explore the strengths and weaknesses of leading international trade theories. Finally, we will study empirical and numerical methods using STATA and other programs.

We will focus on the following topics, with relevant paper citations provided. A rough timeline of when topics will be covered throughout the semester is also provided below. Not all papers will be covered.

- **Weeks 1-2:** Empirical Analysis of Comparative Advantage and Gains from Trade


- **Weeks 3-4:** Firms in International Trade


- **Weeks 5-8:** Ricardian Trade Models


- **Weeks 9-12:** Model-Based Quantitative Analysis – Trade Theory with Numbers


- Miscellaneous Papers We Will Cover (Time Permitting)


**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](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 recorded and subsequently posted to D2L.

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem Sets: 30% (3 x 10%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination: 20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination: 30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation / Referee Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>Very good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>Good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

The final examination will be comprehensive, scheduled by the department, held over a 24 hour period to be completed at home and returned online through the D2L dropbox.

The exact date for the in-class midterms will be announced at least one week in advance.

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.


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.
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
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.

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2020-08-10