



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Winter 2008
Course:	Economics 621 [International Trade]	Section:	01
Time:	TR 13:00 – 14:15	Place:	SS 423
Instructor:	Dr. J.D. Gaisford		
Office:	SS 538	Telephone:	220-3157
Office Hours:	TR 15:00 – 16:00	E-mail:	gaisford@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

Feenstra, Robert (2003) *Advanced International Trade, Theory and Evidence*, Princeton University Press. **[Required]**

Leamer, Edward, *International Economic*, Worth Publishing, latest edition **[Required]**

Paul Krugman and Maurice Obstfeld (2006) *International Economics: Theory and Policy*, latest edition, Addison Wesley. **[Recommended]**

William Kerr and James Gaisford, (eds.) (2007), *Handbook on International Trade Policy*, Edward Elgar. **[Blackboard]**

Book(s) on Reserve:

There are no books on reserve for this course. In addition to background material from the textbook, required and recommended readings for particular topics will be drawn from alternative sources available from the instructor, the internet and/or the library.

Blackboard:

Students who are registered in this course can log on at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login>

Course Outline:

This course provide an advanced introduction to a broad range of topics concerning international trade theory and policy. Answers will be sought to basic questions such as: whether nations should trade, what they should trade, why they intervene in trade and what consequences arise from their intervention. Time permitting, the course will also include an examination of other current issues such as: strategic trade policy in the presence of imperfect competition; trade and the environment; trade, growth and technological change; and/or trade-related aspects of intellectual property. A course syllabus will be provided early in the term.

Economics 611.66 on “Empirical International Trade”, is a useful companion course to Economics 621, but it is **not** a prerequisite.

Graphs, algebra and calculus will be used extensively throughout the course. Rigorous economic analysis will be expected.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

All students must comply with the regulations published in the University Calendar concerning “Intellectual Honesty,” “Examinations,” etc. Students will normally be evaluated according to the following marking scheme:

Final Examination (3 Hours)	35
Term Paper	35
Assignment	15
Midterm	<u>15</u>
	100%

Exams, term papers, etc. will be marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, then converted to letter grades. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, the following letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

Percentage Mark	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Comment
90-100	A+	4.0	Outstanding Performance
85-89	A	4.0	Excellent Performance
80-84	A-	3.7	Very Good Performance
75-79	B+	3.3	Good Performance
70-74	B	3.0	Satisfactory Performance (Note: A grade point average of at least 3.0 must be maintained.)
65-69	B-	2.7	Minimum Pass (Note: A Student with two grades of B- or lower may be required to withdraw from the program)
0-64	F, D, D+, C-, C, C+	0-2.3	Indicative of Failure

If the distribution of grades determined using the above conversion chart appears to be abnormal, the instructor reserves the right to make changes that more fairly represent student achievement.

To pass the course, students must normally attempt all course work and receive a minimum grade of 65% on the final examination.

There will be a final examination scheduled by the Department of Economics lasting 3 hours. The final will cover the FULL COURSE. Deferred finals will not be given except in situations of extreme personal emergency. Finals and deferred finals will only be held at the time, date and location set by the Department of Economics.

The midterm examination is tentatively scheduled for the class period on Thursday March 6, 2008. The midterm date will be finalized at least two weeks before the writing date. Students who are unable to write the midterm because of a DOCUMENTED illness, personal emergency or religious observance will normally have the weight shifted to the final.

Non-programmable calculators with a single-line display WILL be allowed for the midterm and final examinations. Examinations WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions. Examinations will consist of various types of short answer questions, short essays, and/or problems.

At least two weeks will be given to complete the assignment, which will be due on Tuesday February 26. The assignment will involve gathering, organizing and interpreting trade data.

Term papers should be approximately 5,000 words in length. Information on possible topic areas will be circulated early in the term. Students will be required to submit a term paper proposal on Thursday February 14. Term papers will be due at 17:00 h on Friday April 11, 2008, which is the last day of the Winter 2008 term classes. Extensions will not normally be given.

Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (report, midterm, etc.) should discuss their work with the instructor *within 15 days* of the work being returned. At the instructor's prerogative, a remedial assignment for partial credit may be requested of students who have attempted a piece of term work without achieving a 65% grade. There will be no remedial assignments in relation to the final examination. While attendance in class is not assessed directly, good attendance is crucial. The course material is cumulative, and the readings and lectures are complements rather than substitutes.

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 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.

Changes to the Course Outline:

At the instructor's discretion, changes to the course outline that reflect student and instructor preferences may be made during the first week of classes.

Important Contacts:

Students' Union Vice-President, Academic:

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Students' Union Faculty Representative (Social Sciences):

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Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.)

www.ucalgary.ca/sue/

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333

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