

Economics 619(L01) Empirical International Trade

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Lecture Location: SS 424
Lecture Days/Time: WF 8:00-9:15

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Course Description: This course is part of a two-course graduate sequence in international trade. This course is a selected topics course suitable for master's students with an interest but no necessary background in the field, and a core course for PhD students who are thinking of making international a major field. Research in the field of international economics is very broad in its scope and tends to be a bit faddish with some questions and models coming into and out of fashion. One trend that is not going away is the move towards more and more empirical work in economics, and this is also true of international economics. As a result, we will focus on empirical research tied to the following three topics: (1) the gains from trade in the short and long run; (2) the implications of China's accession to the WTO on countries worldwide; (3) the implications of regulations, primarily environmental regulations – like carbon tariffs - on competitiveness and trade flows. In each case we will review the relevant theory (primarily my job), and then move to an examination of the empirical work (partly your job). The needed articles will be posted on D2L and I am in the process of collecting and vetting them now.

Course Outline: My job is to prepare PhD students for future research work, while at the same time giving MA students a good grounding in basic international economics. Both PhD and MA students need very good empirical skills and great presentation and writing skills if they are to succeed on the job market and in their future careers. As a result, the course requires quite a bit of writing and presentation work as well as detective work in finding data to conduct a replication/extension study of a given paper. To do that, the class will discuss in detail research papers in international economics. The papers we will discuss will be either classic contributions or new research written or published in the last ten or so years. I expect to draw new research papers primarily from recent NBER International Trade and Investment workshops, and top journals in international. The class will discuss these contributions in lectures and students will be required to write one "referee reports" on a related article that we do not discuss in class. Students are expected to read research papers and be prepared to answer questions regarding the readings in class. In some cases, I may divide a paper's content into sections and allocate to students or student groups the responsibility of explaining those sections next class.

Course Outcomes: The course objectives are for students to develop an understanding of what drives trade flows worldwide; to understand how theory and empirics work together to answer important trade policy questions; and to gain some appreciation and understanding of good empirical work in economics. 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): None

Recommended Textbook(s): None

Books on Reserve: None

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 via Zoom at the Registrar scheduled times until otherwise indicated. The lectures will not be recorded. Materials from lectures and discussions will be posted to D2L.

Grade Determination/Assessment:

There are several segments to the grade determination. There is a single written “referee report” handed in during the term. A report describes 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 also be a replication study which means students will be asked to find a published paper and data to replicate using Stata or R, etc. The student is responsible for explaining how the replication works, any problems with it, and a discussion of the main findings. This report must also be presented in class or if necessary, via Zoom. Finally, there is a final exam covering the material presented in class.

For all materials that must be handed in such as the referee report or replication notes, the assessment will be a take home exam that will be posted on D2L and due via D2L dropbox at the appropriate date. The take home exam will consist of analytical and essay questions and will be 2.5 hours in length.

1. Written Referee Report (5-7 pages)	20%
2. Written Replication study (10-15 pages)	30%
3. Class presentation of Replication (45 min)	20 %
4. Final exam (2 hours)	30%
	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:

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 for the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

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 Tower.

MST

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