

## Economics 791.02 International Trade I

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Lecture Location: SS 423/TDL breakout rooms  
Lecture Days/Time: M 14:00-14:45

Office: SS 428  
Office Hours: Friday 1:30-3:00

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**Course Description:** This course is part of a PhD graduate sequence in international trade. Research in the field of international economics emphasizes both theoretical work and empirical analysis. This course is the first PhD module course and is designed to be primarily a readings course suitable for PhD who are thinking of making international a major field. My job in this course is to prepare PhD students for future research work by providing a broad background in trade theory more generally, and preparing them for research work in this area.

The course will try to ask and answer three 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 environmental outcomes? The extent to which we get to answer the third question depends on the progress in the term with the other two questions.

I expect this course to focus on two key modelling approaches currently used in international trade. The first is the Ricardian model of international trade, and the second is the Monopolistic competition model of international Trade. We will trace the origins of each of these models from their introduction to the literature to present day approaches using them.

**Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:** The course objectives are for students to develop an understanding of what drives trade flows worldwide; to understand the set of 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.

**Prerequisites/corequisites:** Admission to the PhD Economics program.

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

I will be using journal articles throughout the course, but the recommended Textbook is useful as a resource for much of the material. For example, the basic workings of many general equilibrium models is available in the textbook, but also elsewhere on the web. All of the research articles will be provided to you and available on D2L. If you are a PhD student I would suggest you buy the textbook.

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.

**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/Assessment:**

The course will be graded on a pass or fail basis, and will be graded based on two inputs. First, students will be allocated specific readings to present to the class on new research. Every student should expect to be allocated two of these readings during the term. Second, students will be expected to contribute weekly to the discussion of the research papers presented by others. I will also be presenting papers and discussing all the work presented.

**Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:**

*For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar 0.1*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/qs-o.html>

*For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar 0.1. B*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/qs-o.html>

*Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/qs-r.html>

*Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/qs-r.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/](http://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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

**Important Dates:**

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

**Evacuation Assembly Point:**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The assembly point for this classroom is the Professional Faculties - Food Court.

**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.**

MST

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