

**ECO364H1F – International Trade Theory**  
**(This version: May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012)**  
**Section L5101 (Tuesday and Thursday 6pm-9pm, SS1085)**

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Office hours: *Monday 12pm-1pm, Wednesday 12pm-1pm GE277*

TA office hours: *Friday 11am-12pm GE273*

**Objectives:** This course introduces key concepts of international trade. Specifically, we will develop a theoretical framework to analyze the global market for goods and services. These models allow us to analyze both the determinants of trade and the impact of trade on domestic economic activity. Having developed these models, we will explore the empirical literature to examine how the models match the facts regarding (but not limited to) trade and wages, the gains from trade, and the relationship between trade and growth.

**Exclusion:** ECO230Y1/328Y

**Prerequisites:** ECO200Y1/ECO204Y1/ECO206Y1, ECO220Y1/ECO227Y1/(STA247H1, STA248H1)/  
(STA250H1, STA255H1)/(STA257H1, STA261H1)

I expect that you will be able to perform basic calculus, including simple partial and total derivatives. The teaching assistant will offer a brief review on the first day of class and I will post a short refresher. The administration is very strict and does not allow me to issue waivers to students who do not have all of the prerequisites.

**Textbook:** Krugman, Melitz, and Obstfeld, *International Economics: Theory and Policy*, 9th Edition, Addison Wesley, 2011 (referred to as KMO in what follows)

The textbook is available at the U of T bookshop and at the Short-Term Loan Service at the Robarts Library (3rd Floor) in very limited numbers. I do not require you to buy the newest (9<sup>th</sup>) edition of the textbook, allowing you to look for used copies online (e.g. amazon.com) at discounts. However, “buy-backs” from the bookstore are likely to apply to the most recent edition only, if at all.

Paul Krugman is an excellent writer and this (as much as anything) has led to his success as an economic commentator and academic. I will also be assigning a number of his shorter writings. While they are assigned for their economic content, pay attention to the clarity of his writing. There are also a number of web-logs (blogs) that I find useful:

Paul Krugman (Princeton University):

<http://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/>

Mark Thoma (University of Oregon):

<http://economistsview.typepad.com/>

Nicholas Rowe (Carleton University):

<http://worthwhile.typepad.com/>

While you are not required to read these regularly, these blogs are useful sources of real world examples. Each contains political commentary that can be rather partisan. I am suggesting these blogs for their economic content. Their political viewpoints do not necessarily reflect mine nor those of the Department.

## ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students should note that I do not tolerate any form of academic misconduct. Any student caught engaging in such activities will be subject to academic discipline ranging from a mark of zero to dismissal from the university as outlined in the academic handbook. Any student abetting or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties.

### **ABSENCE FROM EXAMS.**

- If you miss the midterm due to illness or other *excused* absence and present a medical note within one week of the date of the test. A make-up exam will be given in the final week of classes if the note is accepted. Due to difficulties in arranging times that work for everyone after classes have ended, I reserve the right to invigilate the make-up exam outside of class hours. Failure to produce a medical note in time will result in a mark of 0 on the midterm. Other excuses (e.g. funerals and car accidents) must be accompanied by a note from a responsible adult that I can verify *in order for excusal to even be considered*. The validity of these excuses will then be evaluated by the undergraduate chair or myself. Only original (i.e. not scanned, copied, or emailed) will be considered. The doctor's OHIP registration number **must** be provided.
- I will NOT accept retroactive notes (i.e., student claims to have been sick on the day of the test, but met doctor at a later date). I also reserve the right not to accept that the student would have performed "sub-optimally." **In addition, students must email me the day of the test if they anticipate applying for an excused absence.**
- It is highly likely that I will ask to meet with you if you apply for an excused absence.
- To be considered, an illness must render the student incapacitated and unable to take the exam. Vague illnesses such as "gastroenteritis", "fever", "inability to concentrate" will not be considered. In addition, in order for a doctor's note to be accepted, the illness must be immediately verifiable to the doctor. Illnesses of the "student claims to be..." will not be accepted. In addition, "anxiety" or "stress" is no longer an acceptable excuse. If you have trouble with test conditions, please consult the **Access Ability Resource Centre** at the following webpage: <http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/access/>.
- The only acceptable medical notes are those provided by the University of Toronto Student Medical Certificate (see the Registration Handbook & Timetable for a copy of the certificate).
- The office of academic misconduct imposes a punishment of **suspension for 4 months for passing on fake sick notes.**
- The Faculty of Arts and Science selects the dates for examinations within the final exam period. You must not make travel, employment or other plans that may conflict with the date chosen for the examination in this course and any such conflict will not be accepted as grounds for writing a deferred exam. Instructors cannot make special arrangements with students who miss the final exam for any reason.

## Additional Issues

1) Although the lectures will generally follow the textbook, they will depart frequently. The most priority should be on lecture slides and then the text. Materials mentioned in the text but not in the slides deserve less priority. Topics will sometimes be covered briefly in class with the expectation that you study them more closely in the text. I will explicitly say when this is the case.

2) Weighting Scheme:

Midterm: 50%

End of Term Exam: 50%

3) Practice Problems

Practice problems will be given after each lecture. They will NOT be graded but it is STRONGLY recommended that you do the problem sets as preparation for exams.

4) **All supplementary readings will be posted on the blackboard site.** The supplementary readings will serve more than a single purpose. They will find real world examples of some of the concepts we discuss in class. They will also include written work by leading economists on topics that offers new evidence and interpretation of the models and debates presented in class.

5) Tutorials will occur during the last hour of each lecture on Thursdays. Your TA (Luhang) will illustrate how to solve practice problems (not all of them). If you want your TA to cover some specific topics, feel free to talk to her about this.

6) Preparing for exams: Exams will be a mix of multiple choice and “problem solving” questions. While there will be some straight forward questions, there will also be questions that will ask you to apply the analytic tools you use in the class to new problems. Details will be discussed as the midterm approaches. **The final exam will be comprehensive.**

7) Test Score appeals: appeals will be conducted according to the following procedure:

a) Please *type* a short paragraph explaining the grievance and why you should obtain additional points. Give a hard copy of this document to me or to your TA. You must turn in this appeal by the end of class the week following the week in which exams are first handed back. This holds regardless of whether you are in class when exams are returned. Picking up your exam is your responsibility.

b) Conditional on this argument being found persuasive by me, the *entire* exam will be re-graded. Your score can go *up or down*.

Grading is an imprecise science, points are often given that are not deserved and taken away when they are deserved. Please think carefully about your choice of whether to appeal a mark. Note: This does not apply to trivial appeals such as points being added incorrectly.

8) Important dates:

May 14<sup>th</sup> (Monday): Classes begin

May 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday): Last day to add the course; Victoria Day holiday (no classes)

June 16<sup>th</sup> (Monday): Last day to drop F section courses from academic record and GPA.

June 22<sup>nd</sup> (Friday): Last day of classes

June 25<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>: Final examination period

9) Email Policy:

I will respond to e-mail within 24 hours on a weekday, 48 hours on a weekend, according to the following policy:

- a) I only respond to e-mails posing questions that can be answered in a sentence or three. For detailed questions, please come to office hours.
- b) I do not reply to e-mails that request information that can be found on the website or the syllabus, so you should check those places first.
- c) I do not reply to e-mails regarding the results of graded material – for that, please come to office hours.
- d) Use proper grammar in your emails. I do judge you based on how you write.

10) Course etiquette and other issues

- a. Time keeping. The lectures start at 10 minutes past the hour. There will be a short 5-minute break halfway through class and then an additional break before the tutorial.
- b. Switch off your mobile phone during the class. Do not text message either.
- c. If you are sufficiently tired that you cannot stay awake in class, please stay home and get the required rest. I will wake you up if you are sleeping in class.

Course Outline:

**1. Introduction: facts about trade and globalisation**

- KMO chapters 1-2.

**2. The Ricardian Model**

- KMO ch 3

**3. The Factor Proportions/Heckscher-Ohlin Model**

- KMO ch 4

**MIDTERM:**

**May 31<sup>st</sup>**

**4. Trade and Wages**

- KMO ch 4

**5. Outsourcing/Offshoring**

- Blinder “Offshoring: The Next Industrial Revolution?” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 85, No. 2, March/April, 2006, pg. 113-128

- Blinder “How Many Jobs Might be Offshorable?”, *working paper*, March 2007

**6. Trade under Imperfect Competition**

- KMO ch. 6

**7. Trade Policy**

- KMO ch. 8 (instruments)

- KMO ch. 9 (politics)

**8. Growth and Trade**

- Baldwin, Robert “Openness and Growth: What’s the Empirical Relationship?” National Bureau of Economic Research working paper #9578, March 2003.

**9. Firm Heterogeneity and Trade**

- Virginia Postel, “Economic Scene”, New York Times, January 27<sup>th</sup> 2005, Page C2.

**FINAL EXAM:**

**To Be Announced.**