

University of Toronto
ECO364H1F - International Trade
Fall 2013

Useful information

Lectures : Tuesday 10:10 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. in LM 162 (*L0101*), Tuesday 2:10 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. in WI 1016 (*L0201*).

Instructor : Kunal Dasgupta

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Website : www.economics.utoronto.ca/kdasgupta/teaching.htm

Office hours : Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Teaching assistants : Michelle Liu (mengxiao.liu@utoronto.ca),

Jeff Chan (jeffm.chan@mail.utoronto.ca), David Zhou (david.zhou@mail.utoronto.ca).

Office hours : Michelle - Wednesdays, 2-3 p.m. in GE 213.

Jeff - Fridays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. in GE 40.

Objective

This course is an introduction to international trade. The core objective of the course is to develop microeconomic models of open economies that can be applied towards answering questions like why do different countries specialize in producing and exporting different goods, who gains and who loses from trade, what are the most effective trade policies available to national governments for raising aggregate welfare, etc. The models will also help us gain an understanding of recent events such as the increased off-shoring of production from the developed to the developing countries and the role of the WTO in facilitating world trade.

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Check out the *Document on Prerequisites* posted on Portal under COURSE INFORMATION.

Textbook

The main textbook for the course is Robert C. Feenstra and Alan M. Taylor's, *International Trade* (FT), Worth Publishers, second edition (ISBN: 1-4292-4104-7). This book is available for purchase at the UofT bookstore. It is also available at the Short-Term Loan Service in the

Robarts Library (3rd Floor) in very limited numbers. FT is available in both bound, as well as, loose leaf versions. The first edition of FT can also be used. An e-book version of the book which is compatible with tablets and mobile phones is available here: www.coursesmart.com. The course is math-intensive. It might be a good idea to brush up your math skills. An excellent online math tutorial is provided by [Prof. Martin Osborne](#).

From time to time, I shall also post articles from other sources like The Economist, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, etc. For the interested reader, the following books carry insightful but non-technical analysis of some of the issues that we shall be studying in this course:

1. *Pop Internationalism*, Paul Krugman
2. *Free Trade Under Fire*, Douglas Irwin
3. *In Defense of Globalization*, Jagdish Bhagwati
4. *The World is Flat*, Thomas Friedman
5. *Offshoring of American Jobs*, Jagdish Bhagwati and Alan Blinder

Marking scheme

There will be 4 on-line quizzes, each worth 5 percent of the total grade. The mid-term, to be held during regular lecture hours, will be worth 30 percent of the total grade. 50 percent of the grade will be based on performance in the Final exam.

Important dates

10th September	First lecture
26th September	Quiz 1 due
3rd October	Quiz 2 due
15th October	Midterm (during regular lecture hours)
7th November	Quiz 3 due
12th November	No lectures (Fall break)
28th November	Quiz 4 due
3rd December	Last lecture

Administrative details

1. (Missing quizzes or exams): If you miss a quiz, you lose all the points. If you miss the midterm for any reason, you must send me an e-mail *before* the exam. You must also meet me in my office afterwards and explain the reason for your absence (and provide supporting documents). If you miss the midterm for health reasons, then you should bring

a medical note to the meeting (see below for acceptable medical notes). In the event that I deem you eligible for accommodation (which is in no way guaranteed), you will be allowed to take a make-up test, which will be held within one week of the original test. If you fail to inform me of your absence before the test, or fail to meet me to explain the cause for your absence, or miss the make-up test, you will also get a 0 on the midterm.

2. (Medical notes): The only medical note that will be accepted is the University of Toronto's Verification of Student Illness or Injury. The medical note must be *original* (not scanned, copied, or e-mailed). *Retroactive notes will not be accepted* (i.e., notes saying that "student claims to have been sick on the day of the test").
3. (Academic misconduct): *I shall not tolerate any form of academic misconduct*. Punishment for such an offense could range from failing the course to suspension or dismissal from the university. Please review the University's Code of Behavior on Academic Matters regarding what constitutes an academic offense. You should also take a look at the website of the [Academic Success Center](#).
4. (Appealing an exam): Appeals regarding the grading of a test must be submitted to me or to the TA in writing, within one week of your receipt of the graded work. If I find the complaint justified, I (and not the TA) shall re-grade the entire exam. Since I am a less lenient grader than the TA, this could lead to your grade going up or down. So, think twice before you appeal your grades. *Exams written in pencil will not be re-graded*.
5. (E-mail policy): I shall try my best to respond to e-mail within 48 hours. When you send me an e-mail, always write the course number on the Subject line, i.e., ECO364. Every day I receive numerous e-mails, and if the subject line is not informative, I might inadvertently delete your e-mail. Please use e-mails for appointments, administrative or urgent matters. Note, however, that I shall not reply to e-mails requesting information that can be found on the website or the syllabus; so you should check those places first. For clarification regarding course material, please see me or the TA during office hours.
6. (Accessibility needs): The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/
7. (Decorum during lecture): Cell phones should not be used when the lecture is in progress.

Course outline

Introduction

- FT Chapter 1
- Paul Krugman, “What Do Undergrads Need To Know About Trade?”, *American Economic Review*, May 1993.

1. The Ricardian Model

- FT Chapter 2
- Paul Krugman, “Ricardo’s difficult idea”, mimeo.
- Paul Krugman, “In praise of cheap labor”, *Slate*, March 20, 1997.
- “Finding your niche”, *The Economist*, February 27, 2003.
- “Good times are back for Swiss watchmakers”, *The Globe and Mail*, March 12, 2012.

2. The Specific Factors Model

- FT Chapter 3
- Douglas Irwin, “Free trade worriers”, *The Wall Street Journal*, August 9, 2004.
- “Trade talks pit Japanese farmers against industry”, *BBC News*, November 1, 2011.

3. The Heckscher-Ohlin Model

- FT Chapter 4
- “Sticking it to China”, *The Economist*, August 13, 2011.
- “With flights grounded, Kenya’s produce wilts”, *The New York Times*, April 19, 2010.
- “More pain than gain”, *The Economist*, September 14, 2006.

4. Monopolistic Competition and Increasing Returns to Scale

- FT Chapter 6
- Krugman, Obstfeld and Melitz, Chapter 8
- Paul Krugman, “The increasing returns revolution in trade and geography”, Nobel Prize lecture, 2008.
- “The economic value of variety”, *The New York Times*, June 17, 2004.
- “Canada’s wood firms cluster for survival and growth”, *The Globe and Mail*, March 31, 2012.
- “Flaherty calls for clarity on higher prices in Canada”, *The Globe and Mail*, September 7, 2011.

5. Offshoring and Outsourcing

- FT Chapter 7
- Alan Blinder, “Offshoring: The Next Industrial Revolution?”, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April, 2006.
- “Passage to India”, *The Economist*, June 24, 2010.
- “The great unbundling”, *The Economist*, January 18, 2007.
- “Trade disputes”, *The Economist*, September 16, 2004.

6. Trade Policy

- FT Chapters 8, 9, 10
- “U.S. adds tariffs on Chinese tires”, *The New York Times*, September 12, 2009.
- “Pacific free traders eye Canada’s dairy, poultry markets”, *The Globe and Mail*, June 20, 2012.
- “WTO affirms ruling on illegal Boeing subsidies”, *Financial Times*, March 12, 2012.
- “Dead man talking”, *The Economist*, April 28, 2011.