

ECO 364H1F: INTERNATIONAL TRADE THEORY

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FALL 2019

Instructor Contact Information

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Section L0101

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Class Schedule

Section L0101

Thursdays, 10:10 AM – 1:00 PM
Muzzo Family Alumni Hall (AH),
Room 400

Section L0201

Thursdays, 2:10 PM – 5:00 PM
Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building (PB),
Room B250

Course Overview

This course is an introduction to the economics of international trade. The core objective of the course is to develop an understanding of the causes and consequences of international trade, with analysis grounded in the formal study of economic theory. Students will investigate why nations trade what they do, who gains or loses from trade, the incentives for trade regulation, and the welfare effects of trade policies. In the process, the course will introduce students to the topics of comparative advantage, specific factors, increasing returns, monopolistic competition, offshoring, trade tariffs, and trade agreements. The course will emphasize the understanding of past and current world events related to international trade, and will rely on economic modeling to help students understand these events.

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites:

- ECO200Y1 / ECO204Y1/ ECO206Y1
- ECO220Y1 / ECO227Y1 / (STA220H1, STA255H1) / (STA257H1, STA261H1)

Exclusions:

- ECO230Y1

For more details, please read the departmental policy regarding enrolment, prerequisites, and exclusions. For assistance with enrolment, please contact Hala Larizza-Ali (ugadministrator.economics@utoronto.ca) if you are an economics student, or Jenny Fan (jenfan@chass.utoronto.ca) if you are a commerce student.

Office Hours

Kevin Lim:	Fridays, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	GE 323
TBD:	-	-
TBD:	-	-

Please inform the relevant instructor/TA via email if you wish to attend an Office Hours session *at least one hour prior to the start of the session*. This will help to avoid congestion in Office Hours and ensure that students receive enough time with the instructor/TA during each session.

Important Dates

- 5 September: First class
24 October: Midterm examination
Section L0101: 10:10 AM – 12:00 PM, location TBD
Section L0201: 2:10 PM – 4:00 PM, location TBD
4 November: Drop date for F courses
28 November: Last class
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Marking Scheme

The marking scheme for the course will be as follows:

Problem Sets:	15%
Midterm Examination:	35%
Final Examination:	45%
In-class Participation (Top Hat):	5%

Problem Set Schedule and Grading Scheme

<u>Problem Set No.</u>	<u>Assignment Date</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
1	12 September	19 September
2	19 September	3 October
3	10 October	17 October
4	31 October	14 November
5	21 November	28 November

The problem set schedule is tentative and may be subject to change depending on how the pace of the course develops throughout the term.

Assignments will be due by 5:00 PM on the respective due dates. Assignments submitted past this time will be considered late. Assignments can be submitted via any one of the following ways:

- at the end of lecture to the course instructor;
- in the course instructor's mailbox in the basement of Max Gluskin House (GE);
- to the course instructor's office (slide your assignments under the door if closed).

Problem sets will be graded on a ✓-, ✓, ✓+ basis, corresponding to scores of 4/10, 8/10, and 10/10 respectively. Only the best four out of five problem sets will count towards the final grade.

In-Class Participation (Top Hat)

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. The primary goal of incorporating the use of this system into the course is to enable students to participate actively in lectures despite the large class size.

To incentivize participation via the Top Hat system, 5% of the overall course grade will be allocated to in-class questions. The grading scheme will be as follows:

- each Top Hat question will be worth 1 point;
- answering a question will automatically grant 0.5 points;
- answering a question **correctly** will grant an additional 0.5 points.

There will be some exceptions for which a correct answer is not applicable, in which case 1 point will be granted for submitting an answer. The overall participation score will then be calculated based on the total number of points recorded throughout the course.

Overall, students should expect approximately 50 participation questions throughout the term (4-5 per lecture). Hence, failing to answer a question correctly will *not* have a significant impact on your course grade. Rather, these points are designed only to provide a small incentive for participation.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An invitation to join Top Hat will also be sent to you by email, but if do not receive this email, you can register by simply visiting the respective course websites:

- Section L0101: <https://app.tophat.com/e/248933>
- Section L0201: <https://app.tophat.com/e/421507>

Please also take note of the course join codes:

- Section L0101: 248933
- Section L0201: 421507

Top Hat may require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing. Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Lecture Notes and Textbooks

Detailed lecture notes will be posted on the course Quercus and Top Hat websites for each lecture session. The content of these lecture notes, together with the assigned problem sets, will constitute the core material that students are responsible for learning throughout the course. As such, there is no required textbook for the course.

However, many undergraduate trade courses use well-established textbooks that students might find helpful as supplementary reading. The reading list below provides suggested chapters corresponding to each lecture topic from two of the most commonly-used textbooks:

- *International Trade*. Robert C. Feenstra and Alan M. Taylor. Worth Publishers, 4th Edition.
- *International Economics: Theory and Policy*. Paul R. Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld, and Marc Melitz. Pearson, 10th Edition.

Course Outline and Reading List

<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Suggested Reading</u>
1	5 September	Introduction	FT Ch. 1 / KOM Ch. 1 & 2
2	12 September	Gains from Trade	-
3	19 September	Trade and Technology	FT Ch. 2 / KOM Ch. 3
-	26 September	-No Class-	-
4	3 October	Trade and Inequality	FT Ch. 3 / KOM Ch. 4
5	10 October	Trade and Factor Endowments I	FT Ch. 4 / KOM Ch. 5
6	17 October	Trade and Factor Endowments II	FT Ch. 4 / KOM Ch. 5
-	24 October	MIDTERM EXAM	-
7	31 October	Variety and Scale Economies	FT Ch. 6 / KOM Ch. 7
-	7 November	-No Class-	-
8	14 November	Offshoring	FT Ch. 7 / KOM Ch. 8
9	21 November	Trade policy I	FT Ch. 8 & 9 / KOM Ch. 9
10	28 November	Trade policy II	FT Ch. 11 / KOM Ch. 10

The course outline is tentative and may be subject to change depending on how the pace of the course develops throughout the term.

Policy for Late Problem Sets and Extension Requests

Late problem sets will not be accepted and will receive a score of zero. If you wish to request for an extension of a problem set deadline, you must do so at least 48 hours prior to the deadline. Extensions will be granted only for legitimate reasons supported by appropriate documentation, and the granting of extensions will be at the discretion of the course instructor and TAs. Please note that each student will be granted no more than one problem set extension throughout the course.

Policy for Missed Midterm Examination

If you miss the midterm examination for any reason, you must inform the course instructor via email *before* the exam. You must then meet with the course instructor within a week after the midterm and provide documents supporting your absence from the exam. If it is agreed that your absence was justified, you will be allowed to sit for a make-up midterm, which will be held within three weeks of the original exam.

Please note that in addition to material tested by the original midterm, the make-up midterm will test material covered between the dates of the original and make-up midterm exams. This will ensure that any additional time for studying provides no unfair advantage for students who sit for the make-up midterm examination.

Please also note that you will receive a score of zero on the midterm if any of the following occur:

- you fail to inform the course instructor of your absence before the exam;
- you fail to provide supporting documents that justify your absence from the exam;
- you miss the make-up exam.

There will strictly be no exceptions to this policy.

Policy for Documentation of Absences

For verification of illness, injury, or other relevant personal issues that may cause you to miss problem set deadlines or the midterm examination, only the following documents will be accepted: (i) U of T Verification of Illness or Injury Form; (ii) Student Health or Disability Related Certificate; (iii) a College Registrar's Letter; or (iv) an Accessibility Services Letter. You must provide original documentation and not photocopies. Please be reminded that submitting false medical notes is a serious academic offence.

Policy for Regrading Requests

If you would like to make a case for receiving a different grade on a problem set or exam, please note that you have *one week* from the date the problem set or exam is returned to you to submit a regrade request. Absolutely no assignments will be regraded beyond this time limit. Material submitted for regrading must be accompanied by a brief written explanation detailing your reasons for receiving a different grade. Be as specific as possible (e.g. correction of addition errors in calculating a grade, a specific point or step that the grader missed, etc.).

The item will first be returned to the TA who originally graded it. If you are still dissatisfied, it may be passed on to the course instructor at the instructor's discretion. Note that in agreeing to resubmit your work for remarking, you are agreeing to a re-evaluation of your work that may see your grade go up, go down, or stay the same.

Policy for Email Communication

In all email communication, please include the course number and your section number (e.g. ECO364 L0101) in the subject line. Please also note that the majority of course-related email communication will be directed to your utoronto email address, and hence you are expected to check this address on a regular basis.

Academic Integrity

All students, faculty, and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing assignments, citing and using source material appropriately, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism representing someone else's words as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Speak to the course instructor or TAs for advice on anything that you find unclear. Also, see the U of T writing support website at www.utoronto.ca/writing. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations.

Ongoing Learning Disability or Accommodation Requirement

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) (accessibility.utoronto.ca) at the beginning of the academic year. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will then assess your medical situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Religious accommodation

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of backgrounds, cultural traditions, and spiritual beliefs. The course instructor will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity due to a religious observance, please let the course instructor know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two weeks), so that alternate arrangements can be made.

Quercus Information

This course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. The site is dynamic and new information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term, so please make it a habit to log in to the site on a regular, even daily, basis. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, you should see the link for ECO364H1F. Click on this link to open the course area, view the latest announcements, and access your course resources.

Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact the course instructor as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.