

ECO 231H1-F: Economics of Global Trade

Economics Department, University of Toronto St. George, [Prof. Olga Denislamova](#)

Course site for all sections: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/179094>

Communication (tutorials, office hours, Piazza, help desks): see Section 2

1. Course Overview

Description: This course examines theories of international trade in goods and services and analyzes the consequences of trade policies. The first part of the course presents the principle of comparative advantage and its application to classical and modern trade theory. It discusses causes and patterns of trade, as well as the effects of trade on inequality, economic growth and welfare. The second part of the course examines trade policies, in particular their effect on trade flows and national welfare, as well as the political economy considerations associated with instituting various trade policies and international trade cooperation.

Delivery: This is an online synchronous course.

- On **Fridays, 2pm-4pm** I will be giving a synchronous lecture on the new material. You are not required, but strongly encouraged to attend these lectures. These live sessions will be recorded and published on the course website. Please note that the course might switch to pre-recorded lectures if there are consistent technical difficulties with live lecture delivery.
- On **Mondays and Wednesdays**, I will host live synchronous office hours sessions. You can attend any of the sessions. At the beginning of these sessions, I will go over a subset of the questions that we will collect from you after each lecture (see Section 3) and then I will answer other questions that you might have about the course material.
- On **Mondays and Wednesdays**, TAs will hold live synchronous tutorials where they will go over problems related to the course material and answer questions that you might have. You are expected to attend the tutorials, your participation grade will be partly determined by your tutorial attendance and participation.
- All assessments will take place online. Please note that all times listed in this syllabus are in local Toronto time. It is your responsibility to correctly convert local Toronto time to your time zone: we will **NOT** accept confusion about deadlines – always given in local Toronto time – as an excuse for lateness or missed work.

Online Delivery Requirements: In order to take part in this class, you must have access to:

- Your TCard (your UofT Student ID card)
- A reliable laptop and/or desktop computer with a working microphone and webcam – A phone and/or a tablet is NOT sufficient for this course
 - You will need access to the [course website](#). Check it regularly for detailed guidance, it will be updated as our situation evolves.
 - Although not strictly required, it will be very beneficial for you to have access to Piazza.
- Reliable high-speed internet and reliable electricity
- A current installation of Office 365, available at no cost to current UofT students, via the page Office 365 ProPlus: <https://oneseach.library.utoronto.ca/ic-faq-categories/office-365-proplus>
- The hardware, software, and knowledge to efficiently scan your work to be uploaded
 - Most smartphones can scan (a separate scanner is unnecessary) to create PDF, JPG, or PNG files
 - You must scan efficiently and without creating very large files: you may need to learn about your phone or scanner, install software/updates, and/or search for solutions online

While you would likely find it convenient at times, you do NOT have to have a printer.

Sometimes technological issues happen. Please be proactive to avoid technical and other difficulties, which includes submitting assignments well before deadlines, maintaining your devices, keeping software up to date, minimizing the strain on your internet bandwidth, learning how to scan efficiently, carefully reading all assessment instructions, and contacting your instructor/TAs immediately with any problems. **Common issues** like computer viruses, crashed hard drives, lost or corrupted files, incompatible file formats, faulty internet, etc. **are not acceptable reasons for a deadline extension.**

Required Readings: The required textbook for this course is *International Economics: Theory & Policy*, by Paul R. Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld and Marc Melitz, 11th Edition. We may post additional readings during the semester.

Prerequisites, Accessibility and Help: An administrator will remove anyone missing [prerequisites](#). Note that I [cannot waive prerequisites](#). For accessibility concerns immediately visit <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as> and also register with Accommodated Testing Services (ATS): <https://www.ace.utoronto.ca/ats/>. We can only provide accommodations as suggested by ATS. If you have trouble, seek help right away from us, your College Registrar, and/or the [Academic Success Centre](#). **For any issues that extend beyond our course, or last more than a week, contact your College Registrar immediately.**

Important Dates: The table presents an overview of important deadlines for the course

Date	Term Work	Weight
October 23 rd 2020	Midterm Test	17.5%
November 6 th 2020	Writing Assignment 1	15%
December 4 th 2020	Writing Assignment 2	17.5%
December 11 th -22 nd , 2020	Final Assessment, details TBD	25%
September 25 th , October 2 nd , October 9 th , October 16 th , October 30 th , November 20 th , November 27 th	Graded Homework	15%
Weekly (See Section 3)	Weekly Lecture Questions	<10%

Academic Integrity: Academic Integrity is central to a UofT education. This is especially relevant for an online course. We take academic integrity very seriously, and so should you.

- **Do your own work.** We design course work to develop and assess skills useful in upper-level courses and the job market. You lose a valuable opportunity to develop these skills and lower the value of the UofT brand when you cheat.
- **Properly acknowledge other people's ideas.** You'd want the same for your ideas.
- **Ask you if you are unsure** Unless explicitly told otherwise, assume that you CANNOT discuss ANY graded work with anyone—this includes classmates, friends, family, tutors (paid or unpaid), neighbors, literally anyone. Checking websites for answers, posting your work for others to use, collaborating, soliciting/receiving answers, stating false or misleading information related to assessments, etc., are examples of actions that violate Academic Integrity unless explicitly allowed. Unintentional mistakes or confusion are not a defense. Ask us if you're unsure.
- You will be required to submit your writing assignments to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.
- Read the University of Toronto's [Code of Behavior on Academic Matters](#).

2. Course Information

Learning Objectives: by the end of the course, students should:

- Be able to explain why some nations export sophisticated high-tech products and others export simple manufactured goods based on the principle of comparative advantage
- Understand why the majority of economists think that free trade is a good policy
- Be able to analyse how opening up to free trade affects inequality within the country
- Have a basic understanding of the role of firms in modern trade
- Understand how the country's trade policy is shaped by its economic welfare considerations, as well as domestic political concerns.

Weekly Schedule Overview: the Fall semester starts on Thursday. Your first lecture will be on Friday. The table below outlines what a typical week will look like. **Note: this is a generic week and does not include any tests/assignments. You will have to add assessment completion to your study plan**

Day	Friday	Weekend	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Live lecture 2pm-4pm Last Week's Homework Due		Live Office Hours Live Tutorials throughout the day This week's Homework Available		Live Office Hours Live Tutorials throughout the day		Live lecture 2pm-4pm This Week's Homework Due
Suggested Study Plan	Attend the lecture (or watch the lecture recording). Submit your weekly Lecture Questions (see Section 3)		Attend the tutorials. Attend office hours to learn the answer to selected weekly Lecture Questions. Work on your notes, Problem Sets and Tutorial Questions.	Work on your notes, Problem Sets and Tutorial Questions.	Attend the tutorials. Attend office hours to learn the answer to selected weekly Lecture Questions. Work on your notes, Problem Sets and Tutorial Questions.	Complete the weekly Homework.	Attend the lecture (or watch the lecture recording). Submit your weekly Lecture Questions (see Section 3)
Ask and answer questions on Piazza.							

Live Lectures: Lectures will be held synchronously **every Friday 2pm-4pm**. There will be no lecture during the midterm week. Lecture attendance is not required for your grade. Lectures will be recorded and made available on the course website for those who cannot make it to the allotted lecture time. However, it is strongly encouraged that you make every effort to attend the lectures live and take notes. Lectures are held live so that you have the opportunity to ask the instructor questions about the material as it is presented to you and to approximate the environment of an in-person lecture. After each lecture you will be asked to submit at least one Weekly Lecture Question about the material you have just seen. These questions will count towards your participation grade (see Section 3). The material covered in the Instructor's office hours and the tutorials will be partially based on your Weekly Lecture Questions. Please note that the course might switch to pre-recorded lectures if there are consistent technical difficulties with live lecture delivery.

Instructor Office Hours The instructor will be holding office hours **on Monday and Wednesday (time TBD)**. You can attend any session. The office hours will begin by going over some of your Weekly Lecture Questions and leave time for additional questions you might have at the end. You are strongly encouraged to attend these sessions, as

they are your primary opportunity to ask the Instructor questions about the course material. These sessions will not be recorded so that students feel comfortable actively participating.

Live Tutorials: Two live tutorial sessions will be run by TAs **on Monday and Wednesday each** at various times. You are required to sign up for a tutorial session on Quercus via People. Conditional on student demand, we may adjust offered times. Tutorial enrollment locks at 5pm on September 25th.

Weekly TA tutorials serve multiple purposes. First, they help you actively work with difficult course material and hone your problem-solving skills to deepen your understanding of course concepts. The TA will go over problems related to the course material, so they present the perfect opportunity for you to get more practice engaging with economic models and concepts presented during lectures. Some of the tutorial questions will be posted in advance. You will benefit from the tutorials most if you attempt the tutorial questions beforehand. Extra practice in tutorials will be incredibly helpful to your completion of the weekly (graded) Homeworks.

Secondly, tutorials allow you to ask questions in real time. They give you regular opportunities to build real connections with your peers and your TA. You are expected to regularly attend every week with your tutorial section and to participate (by submitting poll answers and asking and answering questions). These sessions will not be recorded so that students feel comfortable actively participating. Tutorials start on September 21st. The first tutorial does not count towards your participation mark as we settle in and adjust to the online environment, where there may be technology issues to sort out. Also, tutorials may evolve over the term as everyone gains experience with the group dynamics and available technologies.

Piazza: Register for Piazza via Quercus (left toolbar). The emphasis is on student-to-student Q&A. However, the TAs will work to ensure proper usage, flag some postings, and answer selected content questions. We will also answer questions requiring an instructor's response (e.g. about the syllabus). Asking and answering questions on Piazza does not routinely count towards your participation grade, however particularly active or insightful contributors might be rewarded with extra Participation points.

Ungraded Problem Sets: For each topic the course site will provide an ungraded problem set with solutions. It will be a combination of assigned end-of-chapter textbook exercises and problems written to supplement the textbook. Both give you practice working with and applying course concepts. Mindfully completing weekly ungraded problem sets will be very helpful before the associated Graded Homework.

Communication: For content-related and administrative questions, use Piazza or the Weekly Lecture Question form. You also have opportunities to ask content-related questions during the lecture, as well as during the Instructor's office hours and the TA tutorials.

For the midterm, we plan to also offer live help desk hours.

The instructor's email is o.denislamova@utoronto.ca. Use instructor emails for course problems that require immediate attention (e.g. broken links etc.) or for personal problems. If you have a personal problem that you'd like to discuss privately in a synchronous setting, we can schedule a brief virtual meeting. No content-related questions will be addressed by the instructor via email. Overall, e-mail is appropriate in limited circumstances: please do not take offense if my reply simply reminds you of this section and/or directs you to Piazza.

3.Evaluation

Weekly Graded Homeworks (15%): There are 7 Weekly Homeworks. They will typically consist of a combination of multiple choice, numeric calculation and short answer questions. The homeworks will be cumulative (you can expect around 50% of the homework to cover current week material and 50% to cover past material). They will be available to take any time during the allotted period (Monday to Friday), but once you start it, you have to finish it within a specified time period (for example, within 60 minutes). The homeworks are open-book/open-notes but **no collaboration** is allowed. Note that the composition of Weekly Homeworks may evolve over the term as everyone gains experience with the assignment and available technologies.

The lowest score will be automatically dropped in the computation of your final grade.

Writing Assignments (32.5%): There will be two writing assignments administered in the course. The point of the writing assignments is to give you the opportunity to apply your newly gained knowledge of economics in a “real-life” setting and practice your critical writing skills. The details of the assignments will be posted on Quercus 2-3 weeks before their due date. You will need to submit the assignment before the deadline. **No collaboration** is allowed. No extensions are granted for any reason (illness, computer problems etc.). There is a 10% (of assignment total grade) penalty per 24 hours for late submissions.

Term Test (17.5%): There will be 1 term test held online for the course:

- Midterm (17.5%) October 23rd 2020

Exact coverage and details of how the test will be administered will be posted on Quercus in advance of the test. **No collaboration** is allowed.

Final Assessment (25%): The final assessment will be held during the Fall Final Assessment Period. Further details will be posted on Quercus at the end of the term. The final assessment **is** cumulative and will cover all of the material presented in the course. **No collaboration** is allowed.

Participation (10%): The participation grade consists of two main components: Weekly Lecture Question and Tutorial attendance and participation. It may further be supplemented by the overall assessment of your engagement in the course (office hours attendance and participation, in some cases contribution to Piazza).

Throughout the week, you will have access to an MS Form titled “Weekly Lecture Question” where you are required to post at least one question about the material covered in the lecture this week (you can post more than one if you have more questions). You are encouraged to post your questions soon after the lecture. Select questions posted by Saturday 4pm will be incorporated in the tutorials as well as the Instructor’s office hours. In order for your question to count towards your participation grade, you must submit it before the next lecture (so before 2PM on Friday).

You are also expected to attend tutorials and participate by answering the polls in the tutorial and asking and answering questions. Once you select a tutorial section, you should make the utmost effort to stick to this particular session so that you can build a relationship with your TA and with your peers.

Any negative participation may result in an overall mark of zero for participation. This would include, but is not limited to, any behaviors that run contrary to the expectations of this syllabus (e.g. seeming to engage in unreasonable collaboration, skipping work, etc.), failing to follow instructions, and any disruptive behaviors affecting your peers, TAs, and/or your instructor.

You will only learn your participation mark indirectly after the course is complete and your official course grade is on ACORN. Given your other known marks, you can deduce your participation mark. You cannot appeal your participation mark. Also, anyone emailing us after the course is complete with the wish for a higher course grade can expect to be directed to this syllabus with no further reply. Course grades reflect an objective and fair assessment of submitted work and are not subject to negotiation.

Remark Requests: Remark requests for the stand-alone assignments (this includes the Midterm and the two Writing Assignments only) must: (1) Be submitted to [Remark Request](#), which is an MS Form, (2) Explain precisely WHY and for which question more points are justified, (3) Be submitted within TWO WEEKS of the graded assignment having been returned to the class. The entire submission may be remarked: your mark can go up, down, or remain unchanged. These are given a fair look: TAs are not seeking to penalize those with genuine marking concerns. Requests are reviewed after the two-week deadline, not immediately. We will not consider any remark requests after the deadline.

We will not consider individual remark requests for the machine-marked parts of the Weekly Graded Homeworks. Please follow the instructions for those very carefully.

Extensions and Make-Ups: There will be no extensions or make-up for the Writing Assignments and the Weekly Graded Homeworks for any reason. These assignments can be completed over a few days, and the policy of dropping the lowest score for the homework is intended to accommodate missing the assignment due to illness, injury or personal/family issues. The scheme acknowledges the continuous space of reasons for missing or doing poorly on an assessment, where most are hard to credibly document or are personal. As such, **you do not need to provide medical documentation or reasons for missing a graded Homework.**

For ongoing injury, illness, or personal/family problems that last longer than 5 days you must contact your College Registrar immediately <https://future.utoronto.ca/current-students/registrars/> .

If you have to completely miss the MIDTERM, complete ALL of these steps:

1. First Step: Complete [Missed Midterm](#) which is an MS Form. It must be submitted AT LEAST SIX HOURS BEFORE THE DUE TIME for the missed midterm. For example, if the due time is 4pm on Friday, October 23, the LATEST you can request an accommodation is that morning: 10am on Friday, October 23. It is unacceptable to fail to show up for an important engagement without advance notice. In extreme circumstances (e.g. being arrested), we may accept a later form, but unconvincing reasons for not submitting it earlier are factored in when assessing your performance. We do NOT wish to see any document completed by a doctor or other professional. All questions in the MS form are required.
2. Second Step: Check your UofT email. If an immediate resolution is possible, we may email you quickly. Otherwise, within one week of the missed work you should receive an email. Follow any instructions in it. Not seeing an email from us is not an acceptable excuse for your failure to follow any time-sensitive or other instructions.
3. Third Step: Complete a cumulative make-up to be scheduled by us.

Your performance on both the make-up and other graded course work, as well your MS Form submission and correspondence, will be taken under advisement in determining your final course grade. We do not report marks for make-ups. However, after all regular course work is complete and returned, we will report the mark assigned for the original missed assessment.

Failing to complete all three steps above, regardless of the reason, results in a mark of zero on the original missed work. We do not accept late submissions and there are no make-ups for the make-up and no extensions for any reason.

Accommodations for missing more work than addressed above are extremely limited: (1) an ongoing and substantial injury, illness, or personal/family problem seriously affecting the student's ability to complete term work across all courses over an extended period of time where the student's College Registrar writes to me after meeting with the student and formally requests an accommodation on the student's behalf or (2) more than one conflict not related to injury, illness or personal/family problems where I am contacted by the student very far in advance (e.g. an athlete who notifies me in September of international competitions conflicting with work). In these limited situations, I will consider whether accommodations can still meet all course requirements or whether the student must be advised to drop the course and retake it when able to complete the required work. Any such extraordinary accommodations are at my discretion and may involve completing work at an alternate time, an oral and/or other assessment, re-weighting, and/or may be contingent on performance on other work.

4. Topics Outline

Below is the tentative topics outline for the course. The actual pace and content may differ.

Topics	Chapter(s)	Description
Introduction	1, 2, 3	Introduction & the Principle of Comparative Advantage
Classic Trade Theory	3, 6	Comparative Advantage due to Productivity Differences
	4, 6	Multiple Factors of Production and Distributional Consequences of Trade
	5, 6	Comparative Advantage due to Endowment Differences
	4	Distributional Consequences of Classic Trade
Introduction to Modern Trade Theory	8	Intermediate Goods Trade and Offshoring
		Intra-industry Trade
		Multinational Production
Trade Policy	9	Instruments of Trade Policy
	9	Costs and Benefits of Trade Restrictions
	7	Trade under External Economies of Scale
	11	Trade and Economic Growth
	10-12	Trade Agreements
		Political Economy of Trade Policies
12, Lecture Notes	Challenges to International Trade	