

Economics 4413
International Trade
Summer 2018

Instructor: Billy Mertens
Office: ECON 12
E-mail: mertens@colorado.edu
Web: <https://learn.colorado.edu/>
Office Hours: M,F 12-1:15pm, and T,R: 12-1pm.

Course Description:

In this course, we will study the theories, policies, and institutions of international trade. We will study these aspects of international trade at a fairly abstract and rigorous level. Although the analysis will be largely graphical in nature, the course materials and lectures will employ some mathematics. Among the issues that will be addressed are: (1) the fundamental determinants of the patterns of trade and the gains from trade; (2) the implications of imperfect competition for trade patterns and welfare; (3) how firms of different sizes and productivities engage in trade; (4) the effects of trade and investment barriers; (5) the rationale for regional free-trade agreements and multilateral trade rules; and (6) the role of international capital and labor movements OR the political economy of trade policy. The economic, political, and social forces underlying many of the issues involved in international trade are complex, multi-faceted, and dynamic. They cannot be fully or easily analyzed in a professional lifetime, much less a one-semester course. They do, however, lend themselves extremely well to critical thinking and rational inquiry, which are the guiding principles of this course. Our goal is to become and remain informed about issues related to international trade and, even more importantly, acquire the ability to think about complex issues in a logical objective manner. Thinking critically is what permits us to differentiate between the illogical and the sensible, between the misleading use of statistics, misleading anecdotal evidence, and the reasonable presentation of information.

Prerequisites:

Students must have completed ECON 3070. It is NOT sufficient to take these courses concurrently. I assume that you did not only take the class, but also that you understand and remember the content. The prerequisites must be strictly enforced.

Readings:

We will be using Markusen and Maskus, *International Trade: Theory and Evidence*, Wiley Publishers, 2012. Note that this book is not yet in print. Professor Markusen has been kind enough to have the CU bookstore duplicate and bind chapters 1-20 for us, which are on sale there at cost: no fees or royalties are being collected.

Policy on Cheating:

If you are found to have violated the honor code (see below), by both the honor code council and myself, you will automatically FAIL the course!

Material from a Missed Lecture: If you miss a class, including when we go over an exam, you are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate and reading the relevant material in the textbook. I encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss the material you missed, but only after you have reviewed the relevant material and prepared specific questions.

In-class assignments:

The material for this class can be very complex, and doing problems in class (often in groups with peer-input) has proven to be more beneficial than traditional problem sets and review problems. We will do in-class problems every day except exam days. You will also be given review problems that are extremely valuable in preparing for exams.

Exams:

There will be three exams. All exams are cumulative, and the material does build on itself so it is important to understand all of the concepts as we go. **Note that the exam dates below are not tentative – exams will be given in class on the days listed. NO EXAMS WILL BE DROPPED!! If you miss an exam with an official, approved excuse, then you will take a cumulative final on the last day.**

Calculators:

On some exams, the use of a calculator may be helpful. I will announce in class the day before exams whether you will have the option of using one on the day of the exam. If you do not bring a calculator to the exam, then you will have to do without. You cannot use the same calculator as another student and you cannot use your phone.

Grading:

In-class problems	11%
Exam 1: Friday, May 18 th	28%
Exam 2: Friday, May 25 th	30%
Exam 3: Friday, June 1 st	31%

Grading Disputes:

If you have a dispute on a test, then you must put your issue in writing and submit it to me. Subsequently, your entire exam will be regraded. Do NOT email me about a grading dispute – grades cannot be discussed over email and I cannot respond to any grading questions over email!

Grade Calculations:

The grade break-down is clearly listed above. You will be given your curved score on each assignment (either posted or returned to you in class). You should easily be able to gauge where you stand in the class. Continual requests from students about how to calculate their grades takes time away from legitimate questions about the material. If you ask for grade calculations, it will be treated just as if you asked a question to which the answer is on this syllabus.

Questions to Which the Answer is on this Syllabus:

When you ask questions to which the answer can be found on this syllabus or on the (D2L) website, it takes time away from material questions by other students. This is unfair to the other students, and thus, you will lose 1% from your total grade when you ask such questions.

Electronics in the Classroom

Laptops, tablets, and even phones can actually play a roll and benefit learning in many types of classes. There are many pros and cons of allowing consistent use of these devices during the class period. However, it has become abundantly clear to me that these devices are more of a distraction than a learning aid in most economics classes. In addition, taking notes by hand has actually been shown to be [more effective than taking them on a laptop or tablet](#). Therefore, electronic devices will not be allowed in class (except on specifically designated days). If you use them, I will subtract 1% from your overall grade for each instance **without notice**. If you are expecting an important call or text, then simply put your phone on vibrate, sit near the door, and step out when the call/text comes through. There will be a few days where we will cover some notes that are posted online, and these devices will be allowed for those days. I will announce those days in the class prior. Of course, if you have a disability services related need for these devices they will be allowed – in that case notify me of your exception ASAP. Some people write out their notes into a tablet; in this case an exception may be made – again notify me ASAP.

Incompletes, Extra Credit, etc.:

I adhere strictly to the University guidelines on Incompletes (“An I is given only when students, *beyond their control*, have been unable to complete course requirements. A substantial amount of work must have been *satisfactorily completed* before approval for such a grade is completed.”). Bad grades, unsatisfactory performance, too many credit hours, work conflicts, etc. are not reasons for an incomplete.

I am adamant about giving each student an equal opportunity to perform well in the course, so there will be no extra credit opportunities that are not offered to the entire class. You should focus your efforts on learning the material and doing well on the exams.

Grading Scale:

<u>Your score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
92% to 100%	A
90% to 91%	A-
88% to 89%	B+
82% to 87%	B
80% to 81%	B-
78% to 79%	C+
72% to 77%	C
70% to 71%	C-
68% to 69%	D+
62% to 67%	D
60% to 61%	D-
Below 59.5%	F

Tentative Course Schedule:

Many sections of the new book are advanced and written more for master's and MBA students. Therefore, we will skip some sections; these sections will be announced in class. Students are responsible for all announcements made in class. I will not be continually updating the website with announcements, etc.

PART I: TECHNICAL TOOLS AND THE GAINS FROM TRADE

In this part of the course, we develop and review basic tools of microeconomic theory that we will use throughout the course.

1. Supply and Production Possibilities

MM chapter 2 (Day 1-2)

2. Preferences, Demand, and Welfare

MM chapter 3 (Day 2)

3. General Equilibrium in Open and Closed Economies

MM chapter 4 (Day 3)

4. The Gains from Trade

MM chapter 5 (Day 3)

PART II: DETERMINANTS OF TRADE

This section analyzes the different underlying causes of international trade and the gains from trade.

1. Differences in Technology between Countries.

MM, chapters 6 and 7 (Day 4)

2. Differences in Factor Endowments between Countries.

MM chapters 8 and 9 (Day 5-7)

3. Distortions and Externalities as Determinants of Trade.

MM chapter 10 (Day 8-9)

4. Imperfect Competition and Increasing Returns I: oligopoly

MM chapter 11 (Day 9)

5. Imperfect Competition and Increasing Returns to Scale II: monopolistic competition

MM chapter 12 (Day 11)

6. Trade Costs

MM chapter 13 (we might skip this chapter)

7. Demand Determinants of Trade

MM chapter 14 (we will likely skip this chapter)

PART III: FACTOR TRADE AND DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT

This section of the course looks at trade in factors of production and direct foreign investment by multinational firms.

1. Trade in Factors of Production
MM chapter 15
2. Direct Foreign Investment and Multinational Firms
MM chapter 16
3. Fragmentation, Offshoring, and Trade in Services
MM chapter 17 (might skip this chapter)

PART IV: TRADE POLICY

The final part of the course analyzes the principal tools that governments use to influence trade. We analyze the effects of the policies and try to understand the reasons that governments choose the policies they do.

1. Tariffs
MM Chapter 18 (Day 11-13)
2. Quotas
MM chapter 19 (Day 13)
3. Strategic Trade Policy
MM chapter 20
4. Preferential Trade Areas
MM chapter 21 and/or class notes (Day 13?)
5. The Political Economy of Trade Policy (Day 13?)
MM chapter 22 and/or class notes

Additional Notes:

Honor Code

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>

Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu.

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website (<http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/>) and discuss your needs with your professor.

Religious holidays

A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students can be found at <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/> Review this list and the class syllabus. After reviewing the syllabus, please see the instructor if you believe that you need an accommodation for religious reasons. The instructor should be notified within the first two weeks of classes. Campus policy regarding religious observances states that faculty must make *reasonable* accommodation for them and in so doing, be careful not to inhibit or penalize those students who are exercising their rights to religious observance. For more information see http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Code of Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Policy on Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/>