**DePaul University**

**Department of Economics**

**ECO 361: International Trade**

**Spring 2025**

**Instructor:** Xin Fang

**Email:** [xfang19@depaul.edu](mailto:econxfang@gmail.com) (best way to reach me, including weekends)

**Office Hours (Zoom):** Tuesdays 1:00-2:30 PM CST (please notify me about your attendance in advance) or by appointment

# Course Description

This course deals primarily with the trade side of international economic relations. The main objective is the development of analytical tools required for an understanding of the gains from trade and barriers to trade. Particular emphasis is placed on currently pressing issues including the impact of trade on domestic employment and income, international trade tensions, and the rise of regional trade blocks.

# Prerequisites

ECO 105, ECO 106 and MAT 130 (or equivalent)

# Course Format

We will conduct this online course in an *online asynchronous* format. This means that:

1. Lectures will be delivered asynchronously, and recorded lectures will be posted every Friday before 11:59 PM on D2L.
2. Zoom office hours will be held on Tuesdays 1:00-2:30 PM or by appointment. Office hours are intended to solve problems you encounter in this course or communicate with me on the progress of the cases/discussions.

Please make sure to have the necessary technical resources to be able to access course materials and complete assignments. If you do not have access to the following resources, please let me know immediately so I can make accommodations for you:

-A computer that connects to the internet (web cam helpful but not required)

-A working email account that you check regularly (updated in Campusconnect). All class-related communication comes though DePaul email, so make sure to check this frequently

-Access to Microsoft Office or similar software

-Ability to playback video files

# Course Materials

1. Text: *Robert J. Carbaugh, International Economics,* 18th edition (and MindTap via Cengage Unlimited).

Reading: *The Financial Times (daily), Wall Street Journal,* and *the Economist (weekly)* are extremely good sources of current information. Additional related material may be assigned.

1. I will post recorded lecture slides on D2L.

# Grading

I will determine your grade using the following components and weights:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Homework (via MindTap) | 20% |
| Study Questions (via MindTap): | 20% |
| Online Discussions | 20% |
| Midterm Exam | 20% |
| Final Exam  The grading scale is” | 20% |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | 93% and above | C | 73-76% |
| A- | 90-92% | C- | 70-72% |
| B+ | 87-89% | D+ | 67-69% |
| B | 83-86% | D | 60-66% |
| B- | 80-82% | F | 59% and below |
| C+ | 77-79% |  |  |

Your assignments will be graded and returned within one week or less of their due dates. If you require any clarification on any of your grades, please contact me at most ten days after receiving your graded assignment.

# Discussions

There will be weekly online discussions in the D2L discussion boards. The purpose of the online discussion is to encourage the exchange of ideas and create synergies in students’ learning process. I will post two main types of questions for discussion each week:

(i) Reading questions or(ii) Questions based on the lectures and video content**. At a minimum, you are required to make two posts each week; one must be a thread that you start, and one must be a response to a thread someone else started**. You may exceed this minimum requirement as you wish. **Discussion boards will close on Sundays.**

Discussion Post Standards and Etiquette

1. Posts demonstrate knowledge of the class concepts and are linked to evidence and/or course material.
2. Timely -adhere to the time window set aside for each discussion, not posted at the last minute. Timely posting leads to productive discussions, in that it allows class members to respond to each other’s comments. Posts will be marked down if they are consistently entered during the last hours the board is open.
3. If your post is related to an existing thread, you must reply to the existing thread, not create a new thread.
4. Read the original questions and previous comments carefully. Respectful -even when there is strong disagreement.
5. Stimulate thinking. Do not be afraid to challenge existing comments.
6. Encourage others to provide evidence and/or refer to course concepts to support their arguments. Cite your sources.
7. Move the class understanding forward. Your comments should contribute to the class discussions.
8. Do not ramble.

Posts that simply state “I agree” or “I was going to say the same thing” or repackage what a previous classmate said are not actually discussion posts and will not be credited as such.

Please do not write in all CAPS. If you want to emphasize a word or phrase you may write it in bold, italics, underline it, or put an asterisk before and after the word or phrase.

I will actively monitor the discussion boards and participate when I see fit. I will keep track of the posting requirements and the quality of your comments.

# Exams

The midterm and final exams are open book exams. Though not comprehensive, the final exam may include questions that build upon material from the first half of the course.

# Course Organization:

The learning unit in this course is the week. Each quarter has 10 instructional weeks. To avoid bottlenecks of due dates with respect to your other classes, we will follow a weekly schedule that begins on Monday (i.e., new lecture videos and discussion questions will be posted on Mondays).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Week | Topics and Chapters |
| 1 | The Scope of International Economics  Ch.1 |
| 2 | Foundations of Modern Trade Theory: Comparative Advantage  Ch.2 |
| 3 | Sources of Comparative Advantage  Ch.3 |
| 4 | Barriers to trade-Tariffs  Ch.4 |
| 5 | Non-tariff Barriers to Trade  Ch.5  **Midterm (April 26~May 2)** |
| 6 | US Trade Policies  Ch.6 |
| 7 | WTO, Subsidies and Dumping  Trade And Development  Ch.6, Ch.7 |
| 8 | Trade and Development  Regional Economic Integration, EU, NAFTA  Ch.7, Ch.8 |
| 9 | Regional Economic Integration  International Factor Movements: Multinationals  Ch.8, Ch.9 |
| 10 | International Factor Movements: Immigration  Ch.9 |
| Final Exam Week | **Final Exam (June 7~June 13)** |

# Academic Integrity

All work completed for this course must adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy which you can review at [http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu](http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/).

I may use plagiarism detection technology for all written work submitted for this class to ensure the work is the student’s own creation and is not in violation of DePaul University’s Academic Integrity Policy. Submission of work for this course constitutes (i) a pledge that the work is the student’s own original work and (ii) consent to have the work submitted to verify that fact.

You are welcome to use outside sources for the discussion posts. If you use any materials beyond the text and lecture videos, you must cite them properly. Proper citation includes using quotation marks if you paraphrase.