

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
Department of Economics

ECON 2543: International Trade
Spring 2025

Course Information

Lectures: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday , 3:15 pm - 5:10 pm
Location: White-Gravenor 213
Professor: Noah Martens
Email: nm1114@georgetown.edu
Office Hours: TBD

Course Description

This course will equip you to objectively analyze issues in international economics. In the first part of the course students will examine classical frameworks like the Ricardian and Heckscher-Ohlin models alongside modern approaches to imperfect competition and gravity, with emphasis on how theoretical predictions align with real-world trade patterns and data. In the second part of the course, we will investigate various levers of trade policy, exploring the predicted outcomes of these interventions and evaluating their empirical validity. We will then examine how political economy forces shape trade policy formation, analyze the design and impact of international trade agreements, and explore strategic trade policy considerations in global markets. Students should leave the course equipped with a thorough understanding of international trade theory and the analytical skills to critically assess current global trade issues.

You are encouraged to follow developments in international trade as they appear in the news. Students are expected to prepare for class by completing all reading before each class meeting. Thoughtful and constructive class participation is expected, as it will both help you to better understand the material and enhance the learning process for all.

Textbook

- Paul R. Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld, and Marc J. Melitz, *International Trade Theory and Policy*, Eleventh edition. ISBN: 9780134519579.
- Additional readings will be posted on the course website/Canvas.

Grading

There will be three problems sets and two exams. In addition, at the end of the semester, each of you will take part in a trade debate. The weight applied to each assignment in determining the course grade is:

Problem sets:	20%
Trade debate:	20%
Midterm Exam:	25%
Final exam:	35%

Problem Sets

Problem sets must be turned in, at the latest, at the beginning of class on the due date. Solutions to the problem sets will be posted on Canvas immediately after they are due. As a result, no late problem sets will be accepted. However, each student's problem set with the lowest grade will be dropped.

Trade Debates

Each of you will be assigned to a topic and a corresponding team. You will need to research your topic throughout the semester, for example by following closely the news on that specific topic, finding data and other information on the internet. By the end of the semester, you will be an expert on your topic. For each topic, there will be two teams (one "in favor" and the other "against") – each team must engage the opposing team in a debate in class at the end of the semester. I will assign you to one of the two sides/teams of your topic, independently from your own views on the topic.

Exams

The final exam will be comprehensive including material from the start of the course but will emphasize material from the second half of the course.

Honor Code

A student found in violation of the Georgetown Honor Code will receive an F for the course, in addition to any penalties imposed by the Honor Council. The Honor Council can be found at <http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/honor/>.

Every student has the responsibility to abide by the Georgetown Honor System. Suspected infractions of the Honor System will be referred to the Honor Council. If a student is found in violation, we reserve the right to award a failing grade on the assignment or the course, in addition to any sanction that the Honor Council and the Dean may apply.

Course Policies

- **Electronics:** Cellphone use is prohibited during class.
- **Attendance:** You are expected to attend all class meetings.

Sexual Misconduct

Georgetown University and its faculty are committed to supporting survivors of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, and stalking. Georgetown

requires faculty members, unless designated as confidential, to report all disclosures of sexual misconduct to the University Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator. If you disclose an incident to a professor or staff member, they must report it to the Title IX Coordinator, who will reach out to provide support, resources, and the option to meet. You are not required to meet with them or take any action.

Confidential resources include:

- Health Education Services: Sexual Assault Response and Prevention: sarp@georgetown.edu
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS): 202.687.6985

More information and resources can be found at <https://sexualassault.georgetown.edu/resourcecenter>.

Pregnancy Modifications and Adjustments

Georgetown University is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive environment for pregnant students. Students may request adjustments based on general pregnancy needs or accommodations based on a pregnancy-related complication or medical need at any point throughout their pregnancy. Students may also request accommodations following labor and delivery based on a complication or medical need.

To request pregnancy modifications, please complete the SCS Pregnancy Modification Request Form: <https://forms.gle/ZBfASxui7u13A8TU6>

More information can be found at <https://titleix.georgetown.edu/title-ix-pregnancy/student-pregnancy/>

Policy on Generative AI Use

This course recognizes generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude) as a potentially useful tool when used appropriately. There is no definitive university policy on the subject so it is up to me to decide how to proceed. This ethical use [questionnaire](#) is a useful reference. The following guidelines apply:

Acceptable Uses

- Brainstorming ideas
- Initial research assistance
- Final editing for clarity

Unacceptable Uses

- Writing content for assignments
- Completing problem sets, quizzes, or other assessment materials
- Generating citations or reference lists

Your Responsibilities

If you use AI, you must document the process by citing the AI program used and your prompts. Always verify any information provided by AI tools. Unauthorized use constitutes academic misconduct under the Georgetown Honor Code.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments
Mon, July 7	Introduction to International Trade	
Tue, July 8	Ricardian Trade Model	
Wed, July 9	Ricardian Trade Model	
Thu, July 10	Specific Factors	
Mon, July 14	Heckscher-Ohlin Model	Problem Set 1 Due
Tue, July 15	Heckscher-Ohlin Model	
Wed, July 16	Imperfect Competition	
Thu, July 17	Imperfect Competition	
Sat, July 19		Problem Set 2 Due
Mon, July 21	Gravity	
Tue, July 22	Midterm	
Wed, July 23	Trade Policy Analysis: Tariffs	
Thu, July 24	Trade Policy Analysis: Tariffs	
Mon, July 28	Trade Policy Analysis: Quotas and Subsidies	
Tue, July 29	Trade Policy Analysis: Quotas and Subsidies	
Wed, July 30	Political Economy of Trade Policy	
Thu, July 31	Political Economy of Trade Policy	Problem Set 3 Due
Mon, August 4	International Trade Agreements	
Tue, August 5	Strategic Trade Policy	
Wed, August 6	Trade Debates	
Thu, August 7	Final Exam	