

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of Economics
Winter 2020

AP/ECON 4129 M 3.00
International Trade Policy and Economic Integration

Instructor:

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Office hours:

- a) Thursday from 8:00-8:30 pm (immediately after each class outside the AP/ECON 4129 classroom, BC 215);
- b) by appointment at some other time (contact me to set a time at ricardo@yorku.ca).

Class time and location: Thursday 5:00-8:00 pm, BC 215.

Email contact: I will strive to respond to student emails every two or three days.

Dates:

First class: Thursday, January 9

Last day to enrol without permission: January 19 (**please note there will be no allowance for late enrollers in terms of attendance, participation score, and late assignments**)

Last day to enrol with permission: February 3 (**please note that no permissions will be given to students who missed the first two classes**)

Fall Reading week: February 15-21

Last day to drop course: March 13

Last class: Thursday, April 2

Dates for submission of assignments: To be announced in the Moodle website

Last class: Thursday, April 2

Goal, objectives and method

The goal of the course is to provide the student with a comprehensive understanding of current policy issues in international trade, economic integration, and economic globalization. Specific objectives within this area of inquiry are a) to identify key policy issues, b) understand main approaches that have been proposed to deal with these issues, c) become acquainted with important policy debates, and d) encourage graduate students to pursue an independent line of inquiry in policy analysis. Theoretical elements are provided and empirical work is discussed to

illuminate the policy issues at hand.

In the context of this policy-oriented course, we also pursue several pedagogical objectives. These are to encourage: critical thinking and writing skills; the ability to conceptualize social problems and to evaluate alternative theoretical and policy approaches to deal with those problems; and the pursuit of meaningful, participatory citizenship through informed discussion of key societal issues.

We work toward these objectives through a participatory methodology that goes beyond the traditional classroom model. Although we cannot avoid evaluation and grades, our approach to policy questions is that there is no unique “truth” or a single recognized “authority” that imparts such a truth. Thus, the class is constructed from the active contributions of both students and the instructor.

We use heterogeneous sources to allow for a variety of viewpoints on key policy issues facing industrialized and developing countries. For example, one author may call for complete openness and dismantling of barriers to trade; a second one may support regulation and management of world trade to attain developmental and environmental objectives. Through the exposure to multiple perspectives, students critically develop their own views.

The course emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches to policy design, implementation and evaluation. The assumption is that economic policy should not be designed exclusively on the basis of neoclassical theory. Thus, the course benefits from students who have different disciplinary backgrounds and hold diverse perspectives on the policy issues at hand. Students are exposed to mainstream (i.e., neoclassical) economic approaches to international trade and integration, as well as alternative approaches arising from political economy, developmental, gender, and ecological perspectives. Students are encouraged to explore the theoretical underpinnings that underlie contrasting approaches and which lead to diverse positions on key policy issues, as well as to substantively debate the merits and impacts of different positions.

Tentative topics (the specific choice and sequence of topics will be announced):

Trade and ecology
Trade and sustainable development
Free trade versus protection
Economic globalization
Trade and human development
Trade and gender
World Trade Organization and the global trade regime
World Trade Organization and environment
Global trade regime: labour and governance
Global trade regime: intellectual property, development
Transformations in the global trade regime

Required readings: There is nothing to purchase. Most of the readings will be accessed through York University Libraries' electronic access for students, to be downloaded directly – links will be provided in the Moodle homepage, and some others from the internet. Details are provided in the Moodle course.

Expectations from the student:

Classes: Classes will be structured as a combination of frontal lecture, write-to-learn activities, class discussion, and small group discussion. You are expected to attend and actively participate in all class activities. Questions and comments are welcome and encouraged.

Class participation, assigned readings, and written assignments: Readings will be from assigned materials (at the rate of 3-4 articles and/or chapters per week), and the expectation is that you read *before* coming to class. Active class and small group participation that demonstrates comprehension of the assigned readings is an essential component of the course. Five (5) written assignments are also required (due dates to be announced). The assignments consist of brief essays based on the assigned readings and class discussion. See the attached sheet on *Guidelines for Classroom Participation and Preparation of Written Assignments*.

Focus of class activities: As mentioned, class time will be divided between lecture, write-to-learn activities, class discussion, and small group work. Please note that formal lecturing will be limited, which means that no effort will be done to systematically cover all the material in class. You are responsible to cover all the material through your preparation of the written assignments. Class discussion will be oriented to highlight key concepts, ideas and issues as well as to engage in policy debate. We will also pursue topics beyond the presentation in the readings (for example, by presenting alternative perspectives and discussing current issues). The thrust of class effort will be to promote student-centred learning and critical thinking around global economic issues.

Absenteeism: Given the participatory nature of the class, *absenteeism is strongly discouraged, and will significantly affect the student's participation grade*. Students will sign an attendance sheet every class. You must indicate if you were late for class or intend to leave early. Signing in for another student will be treated as an act of academic dishonesty. As a way to recognize the occasional problem (e.g., flu, jury duty, travel, and personal problems), you are allowed to be absent from one (1) class during the semester without any penalty. *Aside from exceptional circumstances, no further consideration of minor illness or other personal problems will be allowed. Students who enrol late in the class do not get a special allowance*. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes and updates from a fellow student. Students who miss 1/3 or more of the classes without a major reason will fail the course.

[Spark – Student papers and academic research kit:](#) Students should thoroughly familiarize themselves with the content of this website uniquely dedicated to assist students with course assignments, time management, academic integrity and preparing an academic paper. I will assume that students have studied with care this material.

Academic honesty: Conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community or of one's program or specialization may result in serious consequences. Students should look at the *Senate Policy on Academic Honesty* which is found in the *Academic Integrity for Students* website, <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm>. You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with this Senate legislation and the other materials provided in this webpage.

Turnitin: In an effort to enhance academic integrity and prevent plagiarism, the instructor will use TurnItIn (<http://www.turnitin.com>), a commercial Internet-based search service supported by York University (<https://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/resources/teaching-strategies/academic-integrity/guidelines-for-the-use-of-text-matching-software-services/>). See attached sheet on *Guidelines for Classroom Participation and Preparation of Written Assignments* for further information.

Evaluation:

Written assignments	65%
Attendance and participation*	35%

*Includes participation in group work and class discussions (25%) and attendance (10%).

Note: This course will be organized as a guided writing course.

Important notice about the grading scale: Assignments (or their components) and participation in this course will be graded on a letter or point scale and with a marking rubric that will be announced in class. *The instructor will **not** use the regular FL&APS conversion table to convert percentage grades to letter grades.* The instructor will determine a conversion scale from total point scores accumulated by the student during the semester to final letter grades based on the performance of the students and the distribution of point scores in the class. Information about the distribution of scores for each of the assignments will be provided on a timely basis so students can remain apprised of their standing in the course. *For students aiming for an “A” in the course, it is a requirement that you obtain an “A” average in the written assignments **and** an “A” in participation.*

Academic concerns: If you are encountering problems which are affecting your academic progress, (e.g., attendance at classes, participation in class, understanding reading material, completing assignments), or have any other academic concerns, contact immediately the instructor to discuss your situation. If a personal situation is impacting on your academic performance, refer also to Personal problems below.

University policies:

Senate Policy Regarding Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to

promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established [by Senate]. (For further details see the Senate policy).

Religious observance: York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents.

Resources:

ESL students: Students for whom English is a Second Language are encouraged to register and use the services of the ESL Open Learning Centre (ESL-OLC). The Open Learning Centre offers support to students registered in credit courses at York University, in any degree program, and is free of charge. Graduate and undergraduate students are welcome. For details, go to the website at <http://eslclc.laps.yorku.ca/>.

York International: York International is the central international education office of York University. If you are an international student at York; if you are considering studying or doing an internship abroad; or if you want to participate in international activities in campus, visit <http://international.yorku.ca>.

Disability services: Please visit the Student Accessibility Services Home Page at <https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/> for links to a variety of disability-related resources and services at York University.

Personal problems: If you are facing personal problems, you are encouraged to contact the Student Counselling and Development (SCD) resources. From the SCD's website: "Student Counselling & Development (SCD) aims to help York students realize, develop and fulfill their personal potential in order to maximally benefit from their university experience and manage the challenges of university life. Students come to SCD because of a wide range of concerns including, but not limited to: depression, anxiety, abuse, stress, self-esteem, relationship issues, eating and body image as well as issues related to sexuality. Student Counselling & Development provides: short-term individual, couple, and group counselling services to York University students; personal development workshop and workshop series; crisis intervention for York students; consultation to the York Community regarding students in distress/crisis and issues related to mental health in general; critical incident response debriefings and consultations; clinical training for graduate students in Psychology, Social Work, and Psychotherapy." Check the homepage at <https://counselling.students.yorku.ca/services>. In case of personal crisis, call <https://good2talk.ca/> at any time -- this is a helpline for Ontario students open 24/7.

The Writing Centre: Effective writing allows us to articulate, expand and clarify our thoughts. In university, writing is the main means by which students engage thoughtfully with course themes and communicate their ideas to their instructors. At York University, we recognize the importance of effective writing and also how challenging writing can be. Through its individual writing instruction and its group seminars, the Writing Centre helps students to become successful and confident writers. The Writing Centre offers individual instruction in all aspects of writing. For further details, go to <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/centre/>.

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Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions. I look forward to working with you, and hope you will have an enriching semester!