

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of Economics
International Trade AP/ECON 3150
Summer 2021 – Term S2

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Podhorsky

Teaching Assistant: TBA

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Course Webpage: <http://eclass.yorku.ca>

Virtual Office Hours: Fridays 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm

Please sign up on Moodle to schedule a 10-minute appointment on Zoom.

Technical requirements for taking the course:

Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., Moodle, Zoom, etc.) through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director/TA, as well as with one another. Please review this syllabus to determine how the class meets (in whole or in part), and how office hours will be conducted.

Students shall note the following:

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. This includes recordings done through Zoom.
- If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session.
- The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

To fully participate in this course, you will need to have access to a computer with webcam and microphone, or a smart device with these features. Please consult the following technological resources, which are accessible from the following resource links:

- Moodle: [Student Guide to Moodle](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- Zoom: [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#) and [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#).

Times and locations:

Please note that this is a course that depends on remote teaching and learning. There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus.

Organization of the course:

The entire course, including examinations, will take place on the course's Moodle/eClass page. Although we are scheduled to meet at 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, this course has no live virtual meetings outside of our weekly office hours, a live session to introduce myself at the beginning of the course, and the Q&A (Questions and Answers) sessions that will take place before each exam (see the times scheduled in the course outline

below). We will also have an online forum for questions regarding the course material and I will respond to emails as quickly as possible.

I will be teaching this course asynchronously; lecture notes and pre-recorded videos will be posted on the course's Moodle every week. You can learn the course material at your own pace, following the schedule of readings and activities. If there are any questions regarding the course material that you would like to be included in the Q&A, please email me in advance.

Course Description:

This course studies the interdependence that arises from international trade in goods and services. The course will cover the most fundamental trade models and will often refer to the current issues of international trade politics and globalization. Among the treated questions are: Why do countries trade? Does international trade deepen wage inequality? Is growth in emerging economies bad for Western countries? How does trade affect competition? What are the consequences of protectionism? Although the course will emphasize the understanding of past and current events in the world economy, we will heavily rely on formal economic modelling to help us understand these events. Additional topics include understanding what is Fair Trade and analyzing its certification system.

Prerequisites: AP/ECON 1000 3.00 and AP/ECON 1010 3.00 or equivalents.

Required Course Materials:

Text: International Economics: Theory & Policy, 11th Edition (digital), by Paul Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld and Marc Melitz.

Evaluation:

Midterm	40%	July 14
Final Exam	60%	TBA

This course will utilize the above textbook in addition to academic articles (accessible from the York University Libraries' digital resources), which are appropriate for an undergraduate economics audience.

Topics and Schedule:

Note that the dates for learning the material are provided as suggestions to assist you in keeping up with the quick pace and schedule of the class.

Topic 1 (June 28)

- World Trade: An Overview (Ch 2)
- **Live introductory session on Zoom 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**
For those who cannot attend, the session will be recorded and posted on Moodle.

Topic 2 (June 30)

- Labor Productivity and Comparative Advantage: The Ricardian Model (Ch 3)

Topic 3 (July 5)

- Specific Factors and Income Distribution (Ch 4 and Appendix)

Topic 4 (July 7)

- Resources and Trade: The Heckscher-Ohlin Model (Ch 5 and Appendix)

Topic 5 (July 12)

- The Standard Trade Model (Ch 6 and Appendix)
- **Live review session on Zoom 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**
For those who cannot attend, the session will be recorded and posted on Moodle.

July 14 Midterm Exam*

Topic 6 (July 19)

- External Economics of Scale and the International Location of Production (Ch 7)

Topic 7 (July 21)

- Firms in the Global Economy: Export Decisions, Outsourcing, and Multinational Enterprises (Ch 8 and Appendix)

Topic 8 (July 26)

- The Instruments of Trade Policy (Ch 9 and Appendix)

Topic 9 (July 28)

- The Political Economy of Trade Policy (Ch 10 and Appendix)

Topic 10 (August 2)

- Trade Policy in Developing Countries (Ch 11)

Topic 11 (August 4)

- Fair Trade
- “The Economics of Fair Trade,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 28 (3), 2014, pp. 217-236.
- “A Positive Analysis of Fair Trade Certification,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 2015, Vol. 116, pp. 169-185.

Topic 12 (August 9)

- Controversies in Trade Policy (Ch 12)
- **Live review session on Zoom 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**
For those who cannot attend, the session will be recorded and posted on Moodle.

*Note that both the midterm and final exams will have a take-home format and the students will have 48 hours to complete each of them. The midterm will become available on July 14 at 8:30 am and must be submitted on or before July 16 at 8:30 am.

Grading Policy:

- There will be no make-up mid-term exam. Students absent from the mid-term exam will have the weight transferred to their final exam.
- The final exam will cover all material discussed in this course. The exact date of exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office.
- The deferred exam for the final exam will be granted only for medical reasons. In such cases students should submit a deferred exam application together with the supporting documents (attending physician’s statement) to the Department of Economics to my attention. The date and time of the deferred exam will be set at a later date. Students who may require further extensions or accommodation will have to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.
- Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Important Course Information for Students:

- All students must read and acknowledge the [LA&PS Course Policies](#) as they regard:
- Intellectual property notice
- Accessibility
- Policies related to Zoom meetings
- Student conduct
- Academic integrity

In addition, all students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage

<https://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust2012-.pdf>

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

Course ADD/Drop Deadlines:

Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	July 2
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	July 9
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	July 23
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)	July 24 – Aug. 10

Policy and Guidelines on Withdrawn from Course:

<https://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/withdrawn-from-course-w-policy-and-guidelines/>