

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Spring 2025	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	ECON/PSCI/DATA321		
Course Title	International Trade: Theory and Policy		
Prerequisites	ECON101 Microeconomics AND ECON102 Macroeconomics		
Course Instructor	RAJANARISON Haja	Year Available (Grade Level)	3
Subject Area	Global Business & Economics	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	International trade is a key driver of economic growth, shaping global production, consumption and income distribution. This course examines why nations trade, the impact of trade on economic welfare, and the role of government policy in shaping trade flows. Students will explore both classical and modern trade theories, including comparative advantage, factor endowments, economies of scale and firm heterogeneity. The course also analyses trade policies such as tariffs, subsidies and non-tariff barriers, and the role of institutions such as the WTO and regional trade agreements. Real-world issues such as trade wars, digital trade and global supply chains are explored through case studies and problem-based learning. Instead of traditional exams, students will engage in weekly quizzes, data analysis and a research paper on a trade-related topic. By the end of the course, students will be able to critically evaluate trade policy and apply economic theory to contemporary global trade challenges.
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	None
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	N/A
Learning Goals	Remember & Understand - Define and explain key international trade theories (Ricardian Model, Heckscher-Ohlin Model, New Trade Theory, Gravity Model) and trade policy instruments (tariffs, quotas, subsidies, trade agreements) (DP1). Apply - Use trade models to analyze global trade patterns, evaluate comparative advantage, and assess the impact of trade policies on national economies (DP2). Analyze - Examine the political, economic, and social consequences of trade policies and agreements, such as WTO negotiations, US-China trade disputes, and regional trade blocs like the EU and USMCA (DP2, DP4). Evaluate - Critically assess the effectiveness of trade policies, considering empirical data, economic reasoning, and real-world trade case studies (DP1, DP2). Create - Develop and present well-reasoned trade policy recommendations, write structured research papers, and engage in simulations of trade negotiations (DP3, DP4).

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP3/DP4
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iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Problem-Based Learning/Discussion, Debate/Group Work/Presentation			
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	Problem-Based Learning (PBL): Hands-on application of trade models to real-world trade problems, Develops analytical and problem-solving skills Case Studies & Simulations: Role-playing exercises on trade negotiations and disputes, Enhances decision-making and strategic thinking Data Analysis & Trade Research: Interpretation of trade data using real-world datasets, Strengthens empirical analysis and research skills Student Presentations & Debates: Structured debates and presentations on trade policies, Improves public speaking, argumentation, and teamwork Final Research Paper (Topic-Driven Analysis): In-depth research on a trade policy issue, Encourages independent thinking and policy evaluation			
Use of ICT	All assignments will be submitted exclusively via Microsoft Teams, ensuring a structured and efficient workflow. Weekly quizzes will be conducted through Microsoft Forms with automated grading, while PBL exercises, presentations, and the final research paper will be uploaded through Teams Assignments for evaluation and feedback. All deadlines, grades, and instructor comments will be managed within Teams, providing a centralized platform for assignment tracking and communication. Students are required to check Teams regularly for updates and submission deadlines. Additionally, UNIPA will serve as a repository for key course information and provide access to Teams for seamless integration of learning resources. Software Tools: R, Python (for trade data analysis, empirical research, and policy evaluation).			
Contents of class preparation and review	Pre-Class Preparation Read textbook chapters, review trade data, and answer discussion questions. Ensure familiarity with key concepts before lecture. In-Class Engagement Participate in lectures, problem-solving activities, debates, and trade simulations. Deepen understanding through interactive learning. Post-Class Review Summarize key theories, complete weekly quizzes, and participate in online discussions. Reinforce learning and apply knowledge to real-world trade scenarios. Preparation for Next Session Read assigned materials and review discussion prompts. Maintain continuity in learning and active engagement.	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	3 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)
Feedback Methods	All feedback will be provided via Microsoft Teams for efficient communication and tracking. Quizzes will have instant feedback through Microsoft Forms, while assignments, presentations, and the final research paper will receive detailed comments in Teams Assignments. Peer reviews will be conducted through Teams channels, and students can ask questions via chat or discussion boards. One-on-one support will be available if needed.			

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Systematic Assessments & In-Class Performance	30%	Includes quizzes, PBL exercises, discussions, simulations
Research Process & Final Paper	40%	10-12 page research paper analyzing theory, empirical data, policy impact
Group presentation	30%	PBL

Required Textbook(s)	International Trade: Theory and Policy by Paul Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld, and Marc Melitz (Latest Edition, older edition is also fine).
Other Reading Materials/URL	International Trade: Theory and Policy by Steve Suranovic, 2010, ISBN 9781936126446, Saylor Foundation. available for free at https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/19
Plagiarism Policy	All work must be original, properly cited, and free from unauthorized collaboration or duplication. Plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, or uncredited use of AI-generated content is considered academic dishonesty and will result in penalties, including a failing grade. AI tools may be used only as a supplementary resource, and any AI-generated content must be critically evaluated and properly cited. Students are responsible for ensuring that all submissions reflect their own original thought and analysis.
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	Attendance & Participation: Students must attend all scheduled classes. Being more than 10 minutes late will be recorded as absent. Deadlines & Late Submissions: Late submissions will incur a penalty of 5% per day, including weekends. Assignments submitted 5 or more days late will receive a zero (0) grade. No extensions will be granted unless formally approved before the deadline. Communication: Students must regularly check Microsoft Teams and UNIPA for announcements, assignments, and feedback. Use of ICT: All coursework, assessments, and communications will be conducted via Microsoft Teams, with UNIPA serving as the official repository for resources. Academic Integrity: Plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, and unauthorized use of AI tools are strictly prohibited and will result in penalties. Group Work: Collaboration is required for group projects, but individual assignments must be completed independently.

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Session 1: Course Overview, Syllabus, Microsoft Teams Setup. International trade, research design, finding data.
Class 2	Session 2: Lecture: Introduction to Trade Theory, Economic Interdependence, and Early Trade Models. Quiz 1 Due
Class 3	Session 3: PBL: Case Study - Trade Patterns and Comparative Advantage.
Class 4	Session 4: Presentation & Feedback: Group Discussion on Trade Benefits. Quiz 2 Due Reading: Chapter 3 - The Ricardian Model

Class 5	Session 5: Lecture: Comparative Advantage & The Ricardian Model.
Class 6	Session 6: PBL: Application of Comparative Advantage in Real Trade Flows. Quiz 3 Due Reading: Chapter 5 - The Factor-Proportions Model
Class 7	Session 7: Presentation & Feedback: Group Analysis on Comparative Advantage.
Class 8	Session 8: Lecture: The Heckscher-Ohlin Model & Factor Endowments. Quiz 4 Due Reading: Chapter 8 - Increasing Returns & Trade
Class 9	Session 9: PBL: Trade Specialization Exercise Based on Factor Endowments.
Class 10	Session 10: Presentation & Feedback: Group Debate on Trade and Wage Inequality. Quiz 5 Due Reading: Chapter 5 - Empirical Tests of Trade Models
Class 11	Session 11: Lecture: New Trade Theory & Economies of Scale.
Class 12	Session 12: PBL: Analyzing Trade Specialization in High-Tech Industries. Quiz 6 Due Reading: Chapter 6 - Imperfect Competition and Trade
Class 13	Session 13: Presentation & Feedback: Group Presentations on Multinational Firms in Trade.
Class 14	Session 14: Lecture: The Gravity Model of Trade & Trade Barriers. Quiz 7 Due Reading: Chapter 7 - The Gravity Model of Trade

Class 15	Session 15: PBL: Trade Flow Analysis Using Real-World Trade Data.
Class 16	Session 16: Presentation & Feedback: Group Discussion on Trade Barriers and Economic Distance. Quiz 8 Due Reading: Chapter 8 - Trade Policy Instruments
Class 17	Session 17: Lecture: Tariffs & Non-Tariff Barriers.
Class 18	Session 18: PBL: Trade Policy Simulation-Effects of Tariffs on Domestic Markets. Quiz 9 Due Reading: Chapter 9 - The Economic Effects of Tariffs Deadline for approval of Final paper topic, Submit via Teams
Class 19	Session 19: Presentation & Feedback: Group Presentations on Real-World Tariff Policies.
Class 20	Session 20: Lecture: Trade Agreements & Regional Economic Integration. Quiz 10 Due Reading: Chapter 10 - Preferential Trade Agreements
Class 21	Session 21: PBL: Case Study - Trade Disputes and Retaliatory Tariffs.
Class 22	Session 22: Presentation & Feedback: Debate on the Benefits and Risks of Free Trade Agreements. Quiz 11 Due Reading: Chapter 11 - The World Trade Organization
Class 23	Session 23: Lecture: Trade Policy in Developing Countries.
Class 24	Session 24: PBL: Case Study-Import-Substituting Industrialization. Quiz 12 Due Reading: Chapter 12 - Trade Policies for Developing Countries

Class 25	Session 25: Presentation & Feedback: Discussion on the Impact of Trade Liberalization on Development.
Class 26	Session 26: Lecture: Trade and Labor Markets. Quiz 13 Due Reading: Chapter 13 - Trade and Labor Issues
Class 27	Session 27: PBL: Policy Debate-Does Trade Harm Low-Skilled Workers?
Class 28	Session 28: Presentation & Feedback: Group Presentations on Trade-Induced Wage Inequality.
Class 29	Final Presentations & Course Wrap-Up: Research Paper Findings part 1
Class 30	Final Presentations & Course Wrap-Up: Research Paper Findings part 2