

School of Economics and Finance

MMPE 506: INTERNATIONAL AND TRADE ECONOMICS

Trimester 1, 2015

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator/lecturer: Associate Professor Yothin Jinjarak
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Office hours: By appointment
(Please contact me by email to arrange an appointment)

Course Administrator: Debbie Turner room 321, Rutherford House
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Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 2nd March – Friday 5th June

Study Period: Monday 8th June – Thursday 11th June

Examination Period: Friday 12th June – Wednesday 1st July (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 13th March 2015.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 15th May. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an 'Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late' including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks or [online](#).

Class Times and Room Numbers

Thursday 08:30 - 11:20, Railway West Wing RWW129

Expected Workload

Total number of hours of work expected from students is around 200.

Prescription

Open economies: small and large. Models and mechanisms of international trade: classical comparative advantage; differentiated products; trade and development. Trade agreements, rules, and related international structures/bodies. Offshore investment and capital market flows. Focuses on Asia/Pacific economies and their trade prospects.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. demonstrate familiarity with the core models of international trade and open-economy macroeconomics, welfare implications, and potential gainers and losers from international trade and finance based on the models
2. outline the role of firms in international trade, small & medium size enterprises, productivity differences within industries, export decisions, and outsourcing
3. describe the features of global financial markets, exchange rates and interest parity, international portfolio allocation, and sovereign debt and default
4. appraise the importance of trade and financial policies, political economy, regional agreements and cooperation, and possible controversies between countries
5. recognize the applicability of tools introduced in the course to the analysis of real world situations, and explain the implications of this analysis

Course Content

The lecture schedule and content will be posted on Blackboard as the course proceeds. Tentative topics include

1. Classical Trade Models
2. Firms, Productivity and Trade
3. Multinationals and Location of Production
4. Trade Policies and Political Economy
5. Empirical Studies in International Trade
6. Open Economy Macroeconomic Models
7. Prices and Exchange Rates
8. Exchange Rate Regimes and Foreign Exchange Intervention
9. International Portfolio Allocation
10. Capital Flows, Sovereign Risks, and Capital Controls

Course Delivery

The course material will be delivered via one three hour block per week for the 12 teaching weeks.

It is essential that you have access to Blackboard, and check it frequently as new information, content and readings will be posted often.

Readings

The textbooks for the course are:

Helpman, Elhanan, 2011, Understanding Global Trade, Harvard University Press. Available as an e-text: <http://site.ebrary.com.helicon.vuw.ac.nz/lib/vuw/detail.action?docID=10496851>.

Akerlof, George A., Olivier J. Blanchard, David Romer, and Joseph E. Stiglitz, 2014, What Have We Learned? Macroeconomic Policy after the Crisis, MIT Press. Available as an e-text: <http://site.ebrary.com.helicon.vuw.ac.nz/lib/vuw/detail.action?docID=10872341>.

Krugman, Paul R., Maurice Obstfeld, and Marc Melitz, 2014, International Economics: Theory and Policy, Pearson.

Other readings as assigned and posted on Blackboard.

Group Work

There is no group work in this course.

Materials and Equipment

Silent non-programmable calculators are permitted in the examination.

Assessment

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

Assessment for this course:

1. Assignment #1 (due date: TBA)	15%
2. Assignment #2 (due date: TBA)	15%
3. Test (date: TBA)	30%
4. Final examination	40%

Penalties

Students are expected to attend classes and participate in class discussions. At the margin, for assessment purposes, consideration will be given to your contribution to class discussion and activities.

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and submitted to Turnitin. A copy of submitted materials will be retained on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

Examinations

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period. The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the following period:

Friday 12th June – Wednesday 1st July (inclusive)

Mandatory Course Requirements

All assignments are mandatory.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the course coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

I will contact you via email through the blackboard system. It is your responsibility to make sure you receive these emails in an up-to-date email address. If you need to contact me, do it exclusively by email.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

Note to Students

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.
