



ECON 521 - Section B1
International Economics
Fall 2020

Instructor: Martín Alfaro

Online Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm (as described in the course guidelines on eClass)

Email: malfaro@ualberta.ca

Class website: [eClass](#)

Course Objectives

The course is a graduate-level exposure to topics in International Trade. The goals of the course are twofold. First, to learn the standard techniques used in the field. Second, to improve the students' presentation skills. Irrespective of whether you aim at pursuing an academic career or working at the private/public sector, learning how to deliver a good presentation represents an indispensable tool these days.

Prerequisites and Restrictions

The prerequisites are ECON 481 and 482. Also, ECON 421 and 422 recommended.

Required Course Material

There is no required textbook. Instead, I will provide lecture notes and work directly with original papers. In case you want to have a book as a reference, I recommend "[Advanced International Trade](#)" by Robert Feenstra.

Evaluation The formal instructions and rules of the course are on eClass under the title "**Course Guidelines**", where I describe in more detail how the course will be developed.

- *Assignment 1:* 25% (due Friday October, 9th, 23:59 Edmonton time, as indicated at the beginning of the assignment's instructions)
- *Assignment 2:* 25% (due Friday November, 6th, 23:59 Edmonton time, as indicated at the beginning of the assignment's instructions)
- *Two Written Reports:* 25% (Due Friday, November 27th, 23:59 Edmonton time)
- *Two Recorded Presentations:* 25% (Due Friday, December 4th, 23:59 Edmonton time)

Notice the schedule is only **tentative**.

Grades

I will use a combination of absolute measures and grade distribution.

Course Outline

1. Review of Mathematical tools: demand and production. Optimization with a continuum of variables.
2. Neoclassical Models of International Trade: Ricardian, Specific Factors and Heckscher Ohlin models.
3. Monopolistic competition: Krugman and Melitz models.
4. Offshoring: Feenstra and Hanson, and Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg models.
5. Topics in Monopolistic Competition: FDI, multiproduct firms and quality choice.

University Notices

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the Evaluation Procedures and Grading System section of the University Calendar. ”

““The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”
<http://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/academic-resources/academic-integrity> ”

“System requirements link

<https://www.ualberta.ca/information-services-and-technology/services/software-hardware-vendors/technology-requirements.html> ”

“There is an alternative way to access UofA email. Details are available here:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/information-services-and-technology/services/email-calendaring/index.html>
”

“Audio or video recording of lecture, labs, seminars, or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).”