

# **ECON 475: International Trade Theory**

**Fall 2020**

## **Class Meets**

Monday, Wednesday 3:30 – 4:50, Washington Hall 201 (Or Zoom)

Additional meetings will be posted to Blackboard as asynchronous videos

## **Professor**

John Lopresti  
Tyler Hall 243  
jwlopresti@wm.edu

## **Virtual Office Hours**

Tuesday, 11:00 – 12:00  
Friday, 11:00 – 1:00  
Or by appointment

## **Textbook**

Strongly Recommended: *International Trade*, Feenstra and Taylor 4<sup>th</sup> edition (older ones are fine)

Additional readings will be posted to Blackboard throughout the semester.

## **Course Grade**

Homework (Best 3 out of 4)	30%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Two Page Article Discussion	10%
Office Hour Visit	5%

Assignments are due through Blackboard by 5:00pm Eastern on the dates listed below. Assignments turned in after 5:00 will be accepted for 24 hours with a penalty of 20 percentage points. Assignments turned in more than 24 hours late will not be accepted. I encourage you to work together on these assignments. However, each student is required to turn in his or her own problem set.

Exams are closed book. The midterm exam will be given in class on the date listed below. Students who are taking the class virtually or are otherwise unable to attend the exam in person should contact me at least a week in advance to make arrangements. In the event that you have questions regarding the grading of an exam, you have one week from the day it is returned to contact me with questions.

## **Lecture Structure**

For the first several weeks of class, all lectures will be held synchronously on Zoom. The link has been posted on Blackboard. These lectures will be recorded for students who are unable to attend. Once students return to campus in early September, lectures will be held in person and recorded. These recordings will also be posted to Blackboard. Students attending live Zoom sessions are strongly encouraged to turn their cameras on to promote interaction with the class.

## **Additional Notes**

This will be a challenging semester for many of us. It is my goal to help you learn about the world through the lens of international trade. It is not my goal to make your life miserable. While the expectations for William & Mary students remain high, I understand that there may be times where students are unable to meet deadlines, attend class, etc. It is my intention to be as flexible as possible. If you are struggling with the course for any reason, please contact me to discuss adjustments we can make.

Additionally, please let me know if some portion of the class is not functioning as well as it might – especially the online components. Your feedback is extraordinarily helpful in improving the course.

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### **Face Masks and Physical Distancing**

Please do your part to help keep our community safe. Per university policy, wearing a face mask is required in all public or communal spaces, including classrooms. This face mask must fully cover your mouth and nose. Classrooms has been reconfigured to allow at least six feet between each student and at least six feet from the instructor. Please do your part to maintain that distance. Although students and faculty normally interact in close proximity during class, that will not be possible this semester. To better accommodate our need to be in close proximity to review assignments or assist in solving technology issues, office hours will be held via Zoom to allow screen sharing.

### **Student Accessibility Services**

William & Mary accommodates students with disabilities in accordance with federal laws and university policy. Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a learning, psychiatric, physical, or chronic health diagnosis should contact Student Accessibility Services staff at 757-221-2512 or at [sas@wm.edu](mailto:sas@wm.edu) to determine if accommodations are warranted and to obtain an official letter of accommodation. For more information, please see [www.wm.edu/sas](http://www.wm.edu/sas).

### **W&M Honor Code**

The College of William & Mary has had an honor code since at least 1779. Academic integrity is at the heart of the College, and we all are responsible for upholding the ideals of honor and integrity. The student-led honor system is responsible for resolving any suspected violations of the Honor Code, and I will report all suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the honor system. The Student Handbook ([www.wm.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.wm.edu/studenthandbook)) includes your responsibilities as a student and the full Code. Your full participation and observance of the Honor Code is expected. To read the Honor Code, see [www.wm.edu/honor](http://www.wm.edu/honor). All academic work in this course is to be your own.

### **Important Dates**

**Problem Set 1 Due:** September 7

**Problem Set 2 Due:** September 21

**Problem Set 3 Due:** October 21

**Problem Set 4 Due:** November 11

**Article Discussion Due:** November 4

**Midterm Exam:** Monday, September 28 (In Class)

**Final Exam:** Monday, November 23 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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## **Course Outline**

What is provided below is a tentative outline of the topics to be covered in this course. While the broad structure will remain unchanged, topics may be added or removed as time dictates. Relevant changes will be noted in class.

### **Chapter 2: The Ricardian Model: Trade and Technology**

Why do countries trade with one another? How does productivity affect the pattern of trade? What is the nature of gains from trade?

### **Chapter 3: The Specific Factors Model: Winners and Losers from Trade**

Can we explain opposition to trade? What determines winners and losers from trade?

### **Chapter 4: The Heckscher Ohlin Model: Resources and Trade**

What role do factor endowments play in the pattern of trade? How do changes in goods prices affect returns to factors of production? How do changes in endowments affect outputs? Do factor prices converge?

### **Chapter 5: Factor Mobility**

Are there gains to movement in factors of production? Does the effect of factor mobility change over time? How does immigration affect wages of domestic workers?

### **Chapter 6: Increasing Returns, Imperfect Competition, and Firms in Trade**

Why do similar countries trade? How do increasing returns to scale affect the motivation for trade? What role do individual firms play in trade? How can we explain empirical regularities regarding firm productivity and trade?

### **Chapter 7: Outsourcing, Wages, and Inequality**

What about world trade do models of trade in final goods fail to capture? How does offshoring affect wages of skilled and unskilled labor? Are the incentives and effects for outsourcing different from those for trade in goods?

### **Chapter 8: Trade Policy Under Perfect Competition: Tariffs, Quotas, and Subsidies**

What are the effects of trade policy on domestic and world prices? On output? What are the welfare effects of the various policies? How do the effects depend upon the market power of a country?

### **Chapter 10: Strategic Trade Policy, Other Protectionist Arguments**

What is the incentive for active subsidization? What are the hurdles to such a policy? What is the infant industry argument?

### **Chapter 11: Trade Agreements**

Do we need trade agreements? What role does the World Trade Organization play in global trade? What do the data say about recent trade agreements? How do we measure the effect of trade agreements?