

Economics 245 — Fall 2011
International Trade

September 20, 2011

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Office: Economics 312
Office hours: Wed 9:30a - 11:00a (or by appointment)
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Class Time: TueThu 11:00a - 12:20p
Classroom: Econ 300
Class Web Page: econ.ucsd.edu/muendler/teach/11f/245

1 Course Objectives

This course examines theoretical foundations of international trade and its empirical analysis. On the theory side, the course considers the determinants of the trade pattern in goods and services, explanations of export-market participation and multinational activity at the firm level, as well as the interrelation of international trade with factor-market outcomes, income distribution and commercial policy. The empirical parts of the course present tests of theories of international trade and international capital movements, and the analysis of their consequences for economic outcomes.

2 Prerequisites

Instructor's consent.

3 Readings

Textbooks: Feenstra (2004); Eaton and Kortum (2010);
partly Bhagwati, Panagariya, and Srinivasan (1998)

Readings: See Class schedule and References.

The Eaton and Kortum textbook draft and readings are available through the class web page (see above). For each lecture, there is a main reading and there are additional readings. The main reading is an original paper or book chapter.

Lecture slides will be available for download from the class web page before each class.

4 Paper reports

There are typically two lectures per week, and each lecture has one designated *Main Reading* on this syllabus.

You are asked to send me *one* paper report by e-mail per week, either on the main reading of the Tuesday lecture or on the main reading of the Thursday lecture. Please paste your report into the *body of the e-mail*. No report is due for Lecture 1. Starting with Lecture 2 on September 27, there are two lectures per week through November 17; one report is due for each of these eight weeks.

Given Thanksgiving holiday on November 24, the paper due in the ninth week is either one of the two alternative main readings for Lecture 18 on November 22. On two occasions, the main reading consists of three shorter papers and is cumulative.

Your report should be no longer than two (2) paragraphs and provide a summary of the paper's main insights and lessons. For theoretical papers, and the occasional historic conceptual paper, the summary should describe the main hypothesis and building blocks of the model, recount the main steps of the reasoning in the derivation, and assess the novelty and generality of the model. For empirical papers, the summary should describe the main features of the data source, explain the empirical procedure and identification strategy, and assess the robustness and generality of the results. For each paper, the summary concludes with a brief assessment of the role and relevance of the paper in the literature.

The paper report e-mail is due *before* the respective class, at 10am of the day of class. In particular, if a student chooses to review the main reading of the Tuesday lecture, then the report is due at 10am before the class on Tuesday.

5 Problem sets

Three problem sets will be distributed throughout the quarter. Problem set 1 will cover Industry-level Trade Theory, problem set 2 Firm-level Trade Theory and problem set 3 Global Production. The problem sets will ask you to derive main aspects of models covered in class, or related extensions. Each problem set is given out at the beginning of the according topic block (Sep 29/Oct 18/Nov 8) and due upon conclusion of the according topic block (Oct 13/Nov 3/Dec 1). Also see the Class Schedule for dates.

6 Oral presentation

The last week of class will be devoted to student presentations. In groups of two, students will choose a recent research paper at the frontier of research in international trade. For this purpose, you will propose a paper of your choice by Monday, November 21 at 5pm. In some cases, I may ask you to select another paper by Wednesday, November 23. The paper presentation should explain the paper's main insights in a style similar to a seminar. Ideally, students will conclude with ideas for own follow-up research. A presentation will be 40 minutes long and should be based on slides as if you were presenting your own work.

7 Assessment

There are four components of assessment: nine paper reports (out of 18 main papers), three problem sets, the oral presentation, and class participation. Class participation will count for 25 percent of the final letter grade; the paper reports, the problem sets, and the oral presentation also for 25 percent each.

8 Class Schedule

I. Foundations

1. Thu, Sep 22: Empirical Foundations

Eaton and Kortum (2010)/Ch. 2

(*Additional readings:* Bernard and Jensen 1995, Bernard, Jensen, Redding, and Schott 2007, Bernard, Jensen, and Schott 2009, Eaton, Kortum, and Kramarz 2004)

2. Tue, Sep 27: Analytic Foundations and the Gravity Equation

Eaton and Kortum (2010)/Ch. 3, Feenstra (2004)/Ch. 5

Main reading: Anderson and van Wincoop (2003)

(*Additional readings:* Armington 1969, Anderson 1979, Anderson and van Wincoop 2004)

II. Industry-level Trade Theory

3. Thu, Sep 29: Productivity Differences and Trade

Eaton and Kortum (2010)/Ch. 3, Feenstra (2004)/Ch. 1

Main reading: Dornbusch, Fischer, and Samuelson (1977)

(*Additional readings:* Ricardo 1821, Costinot 2009, Obstfeld and Rogoff 1996/Ch. 4.5)

PROBLEM SET 1 OUT

4. Tue, Oct 4: Endowment Differences and Trade

Feenstra (2004)/Ch. 1-2, Bhagwati, Panagariya, and Srinivasan (1998)/Ch. 5-6

Main reading: Ohlin (1931)

5. Thu, Oct 6: Many Goods, Many Factors and Some Evidence

Feenstra (2004)/Ch. 3, Bhagwati, Panagariya, and Srinivasan (1998)/Ch. 8

Main reading: Davis and Weinstein (2001)

(*Additional readings:* Leontief 1953, Trefler 1995, Bernhofen and Brown 2004)

6. Tue, Oct 11: Endowment Differences, Trade, and Trade Policy

Feenstra (2004)/Ch. 2-3, Bhagwati, Panagariya, and Srinivasan (1998)/Ch. 12

Main reading: Romalis (2004)

(*Additional reading:* Schott 2004; Dornbusch, Fischer, and Samuelson 1980, Costinot and Vogel forthcoming)

III. Firm-level Trade Theory

7. Thu, Oct 13: Monopolistic Competition and Increasing Returns

Bhagwati, Panagariya, and Srinivasan (1998)/Ch. 11

Main reading: Krugman (1980)

(*Additional readings:* Helpman and Krugman 1985/Ch. 6-9, Dixit and Stiglitz 1977, Broda and Weinstein 2006)

PROBLEM SET 1 DUE

8. Tue, Oct 18: Exporter Heterogeneity and the Size Distribution of Firms

Main readings: Eaton, Kortum, and Kramarz (2004), Axtell (2001), Bernard, Jensen, Redding, and Schott (2007), cumulatively

(*Additional readings:* Roberts and Tybout 1997, Clerides, Lach, and Tybout 1998; Gibrat 1931, Sutton 1997)

PROBLEM SET 2 OUT

- 9. Thu, Oct 20:** Intermission on Multidimensional Panel Data
Main reading: Abowd, Kramarz, and Woodcock (2008)
(Additional readings: Abowd, Kramarz, and Margolis 1999, Moreira 2008)
- 10. Tue, Oct 25:** Heterogeneity with Fixed Costs of Exporting
 Melitz (2003)
Main reading: Das, Roberts, and Tybout (2007)
(Additional readings: Yeaple 2005, Bernard, Redding, and Schott 2007, Chaney 2008)
- 11. Thu, Oct 27:** Technology in the Global Economy
 Eaton and Kortum (2010)/Ch. 4-6 (sections 4.1, 4.4, 5.1-5.4, 6.1-6.5)
Main reading: Eaton and Kortum (2002)
(Additional readings: Alvarez and Lucas 2007, Eaton, Kortum, and Kramarz 2010)
- 12. Tue, Nov 1:** Multi-product Firms
Main reading: Eckel and Neary (2010)
(Additional readings: Arkolakis and Muendler 2011, Bernard, Redding, and Schott 2011)

IV. Global Production

- 13. Thu, Nov 3:** Offshoring and Trade in Intermediate Inputs
 Feenstra (2004)/Ch. 4
Main reading: Feenstra and Hanson (1999)
(Additional reading: Ebenstein, Harrison, McMillan, and Phillips 2009)
 PROBLEM SET 2 DUE
- 14. Mon, Nov 7:** Trade in Tasks
Main reading: Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg (2008)
(Additional readings: Leamer and Storper 2001, Levy and Murnane 2004, Blinder 2009, Jensen and Kletzer forthcoming)
 PROBLEM SET 3 OUT
- 15. Tue, Nov 8:** Horizontal Foreign Direct Investment
 Feenstra (2004)/Ch. 11
Main reading: Brainard (1997)
(Additional readings: Markusen and Venables 2000, Helpman, Melitz, and Yeaple 2004, Ekholm, Forslid, and Markusen 2007)
- 16. Tue, Nov 15:** Firm Boundaries and Vertical Foreign Direct Investment
 Feenstra (2004)/Ch. 11
Main reading: Antràs (2003)
(Additional reading: Antràs and Helpman 2004, Hanson, Mataloni, and Slaughter 2005)
- 17. Thu, Nov 17:** Determinants and Consequences of Multinational Firm Activity
 Feenstra (2004)/Ch. 11
Main readings: Carr, Markusen, and Maskus (2001), Blonigen, Davies, and Head (2003) and Carr, Markusen, and Maskus (2003), cumulatively
(Additional reading: Muendler and Becker 2010; Helpman 2006)
- Mon, Nov 21:** PROPOSAL FOR PAPER PRESENTATION DUE
- 18. Tue, Nov 22:** Trade and Employment Outcomes
 Helpman, Itskhoki, and Redding (2010)

Main reading: Artuç, Chaudhuri, and McLaren (2010) or Amiti and Davis (forthcoming), alternatively
(*Additional readings:* Menezes-Filho and Muendler 2011; Davidson and Matusz 2004)

Wed, Nov 23: SCHEDULE OF STUDENT PRESENTATIONS OUT

Tue, Nov 29: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Thu, Dec 1: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
PROBLEM SET 3 DUE

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