

**Faculty of Science Course Syllabus  
Department of Economics  
ECON 5330  
International Trade  
Winter 2026**

*Dalhousie University operates in the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati Peoples. These sovereign nations hold inherent rights as the original peoples of these lands, and we each carry collective obligations under the Peace and Friendship Treaties. Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights in Canada.*

*We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies, and contributions have enriched the part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.*

**Instructor Information:**

Dr. Wimal Rankaduwa

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Office Hours: T 5.30 - 6.30 pm.

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**Course Delivery:**

The course will be delivered in person.

**Lectures:** Tuesday, 14.35-17.25, Studley MCCAIN ARTS&SS 2017

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**Calendar Description:**

This course examines the theory and empirics of international trade. It covers the classical Ricardian theory of comparative advantage, the neoclassical factor proportions theory, and the new trade theories that incorporate increasing returns and productivity differences, and discusses empirical testing of these theories. The course investigates the use of trade policy in industrial and developing countries, as well as the institutions that have been developed to regulate those policies.

**Course Prerequisites:**

Graduate standing in the Department of Economics or permission of the instructor

**Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course – which includes following lectures and scheduled readings, completing assignments and quizzes, and understanding and applying the assigned material – students should be able to:

- Explain how different theories can be used to explain trade flows.
- Evaluate the effect of international trade on other economic outcomes.

- Analyze the effects of international trade policy
- Explain the debates on international trade and trade policy
- Critically analyze data and review published studies.

### Course Materials:

This course will be taught in person using the Brightspace site for the course at Dalhousie University. Students will be required to read articles available through the library, and are responsible for the material covered in lectures. The lectures will focus on the list of readings and the topics discussed in several chapters in the following textbook:

[James Gerber](#), *International Economics*, 8th Edition, Pearson Education Inc., 2022.

Students will be assigned a weekly schedule of required readings from the textbook and the list of readings. Knowledge of econometrics will be an advantage in understanding the methods and methodological issues found in the assigned readings. The reading list may be revised and updated during the term.

### Course Assessment:

Review Quizzes	15%, (top 3 out of 4)
Assignments	15%, (top 3 out of 4)
Paper	15%
Midterm Test	25%
Final Exam	30%

### Schedule of Quizzes

<u>Quiz (% of Grade)</u>	<u>Lectures Covered</u>	<u>Date</u>
Quiz #1 (5%)	Lectures 1- 2	January 27, 2026
Quiz #2 (5%)	Lectures 3 - 5	February 17, 2026
Quiz #3 (5%)	Lectures 6 - 7	March 17, 2026
Quiz #4 (5%)	Lectures 8 – 9	March 31, 2026

### Schedule of Assignments

<u>Assignment (% of Grade)</u>	<u>Lectures Covered</u>	<u>Available on</u>	<u>Due on</u>
Assignment #1 (5%)	Lectures 1- 2	Jan. 27, 2026	Feb. 03, 2026
Assignment #2 (5%)	Lectures 3– 5	Feb. 17, 2026	Feb 24, 2026
Assignment #3 (5%)	Lectures 6– 7	Mar. 17, 2026	Mar. 24, 2026
Assignment #4 (5%)	Lectures 8- 9	Mar. 31, 2026	Apr. 07, 2026

### Schedule of Tests /Exams

<u>Test/Exam (% of Grade)</u>	<u>Lectures Covered</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Mid-Term Test (25%)	Lectures. 1-5	Feb. 24, 2026	14.35-16.35 (in class)
Final Exam (30%)	Lectures. 1-10	April 07, 2026	14.35-17.25 (in class)

**Conversion of Numerical Grades to Final Letter Grades:**

A+ (90-100)	A (85-89)	A- (80-84)
B+ (77-79)	B (73-76)	B- (70-72)
F (<70)		

**Course Policies:**

- There will be no make-up quizzes.
- Late assignments will be penalized by 10 points (out of 50 points) per day, starting immediately after the assignment is due at 11:59 p.m.
- There will be no makeup midterm exams. If a student misses the midterm for a valid reason, as defined in Section 16.8 of the University Calendar, then the weight of the midterm will be added to the final exam.
- If a student misses the final exam for a valid reason, the student will have the opportunity to write a makeup exam.
- Plagiarism software may be used in the course.
- For help with technical issues, contact the IT help desk: <https://libraries.dal.ca/help/it-help-desk.html>

**Course Content: *Lecture Schedule***

The following schedule is only a proposed outline, which may be revised. Topics and material may be added or removed as needed. Of critical importance is your understanding of the course material. As such, some topics may be covered faster or slower than planned.

<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapters</u>
1	January 13	An Introduction to the World Economy	1
		International Economic Institutions and World Trade	2
2	January 20	Comparative Advantage: Ricardian Theory and Gains from Trade	3
3	January 27	Comparative Advantage: Heckscher-Ohlin Theory, Gravity Model, Product Cycle Theory	4
4	February 03	Economies of Scale, Trade, and Industrial Policy	5
5	February 10	Theory of Tariffs and Quotas	6
6	February 17	Commercial Policy	7
		Trade and Labour and Environmental Standards	8
	<b>February 24</b>	<b>MID-TERM EXAMINATION</b>	<b>Lectures 1-6</b>
7	March 10	Trade and the Balance of Payments	9
8	March 17	The United States, Trade, and the World Economy	13
9	March 24	Trade and Policy Reform in Latin America, Export-Oriented Growth in East Asia	15
			16
10	March 31	China, and India in World Trade	17
	April 07	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>	<b>All Lectures</b>

**Course Content: Reading List****International Economic Institutions and Trade: January 13, 2026/Lecture 1**

Mansfield, E. and Reinhart, E., "International Institutions and the Volatility of International Trade," *International Organization*, 62:4 (2008), 621-652.

Rose, A., "Do We Really Know that the WTO Increases Trade?," *American Economic Review* 94:1 (2004), 98-114.

Huang, Q. and Li, Z., "Trade and peace: The WTO case," *China Economic Review*, 83 (2024) 102072

Drabek, Z., "Is the WTO terminally ill? Threats to the international trading system", *Asia and the Global Economy*, 4 (2024) 100078

Baier, S. and Bergstrand, J., "Do Free Trade Agreements Actually Increase Members' International Trade?" *Journal of International Economics* 71:1 (2007), 72-95.

**Ricardian Theory and Gains from Trade/ January 20, 2026/Lecture 2**

Golub, S. and Hsieh, C., "Classical Ricardian Theory of Comparative Advantage Revisited," *Review of International Economics* 8:2 (2000): 221-234.

Costinot, A., Donaldson, D., and Komunjer, I., "What Goods Do Countries Trade? A Quantitative Exploration of Ricardo's Ideas," *Review of Economic Studies* 79:2 (2012), 581-608.

Semancikova, J., "Trade, Trade Openness and Macroeconomic Performance," *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 220 (2016), 407-416

**Heckscher-Ohlin Theory/January 27, 2026/ Lecture 3**

Leontief, W., "Domestic Production and Foreign Trade: The American Capital Position Re-Examined," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 97:4 (1953), 332-349.

Bowen, H., Leamer, E., and Sveikauskas, L., "Multicountry, Multifactor Tests of the Factor Abundance Theory," *American Economic Review* 77:5 (1987), 791-809.

Trefler, D., "International Factor Price Differences: Leontief was Right!," *Journal of Political Economy* 101:6 (1993), 961-987.

Clifton, D.S., and Marxsen, W.B., "An Empirical Investigation of the Heckscher-Ohlin Theorem," *The Canadian Journal of Economics*, 17:1 (1984), 32-38

Trefler, D., "The Case of the Missing Trade and Other Mysteries," *American Economic Review* 85:5 (1995), 1029-1046.

**Gravity Model** /January 27, 2026/ Lecture 3

Head, K., “Gravity for Beginners,” mimeo (2003), University of British Columbia.

McCallum, J., “National Borders Matter: Canada-U.S. Regional Trade Patterns,” *American Economic Review* 85:3 (1995), 615-623.

Helpman, E., Melitz, M., and Rubinstein, Y., “Estimating Trade Flows: Trading Partners and Trading Volumes,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123:2 (2008), 441-487.

**Economies of Scale and Trade**/February 03, 2026/Lecture 4

Hummels, D. and Levinsohn, J., “Monopolistic Competition and International Trade: Reconsidering the Evidence,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 110:3 (1995), 799-836.

**Tariff, Quotas, and Commercial Policy**/February 10 and 17, 2026/Lectures 5 and 6

Wacziarg, R. and K. Welch, “Trade Liberalization and Growth: New Evidence,” *World Bank Economic Review* 22:2 (2008), 187-231.

Amiti, M., Redding, S., and Weinstein, D., “The Impact of the 2018 Tariffs on Prices and Welfare,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 33:4 (2019), 187-210.

Bühler M., “Who Benefits from Free Trade?,” *World Development*, 179 (2024) 106622  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2024.106622>

**US and Trade:** March 17, 2026/Lecture 8

Bound, J. and Johnson, G., “Changes in the Structure of Wages in the 1980s: An Evaluation of Alternative Explanations,” *American Economic Review* 82:3 (1992), 371-392.

Sachs, J. and Shatz, H., “Trade and Jobs in U.S. Manufacturing,” *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity* 1 (1994), 1-84.

Krugman, P., “Trade and Wages, Reconsidered,” *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity* (Spring 2008), 103-154.

**Latin America and Trade:** March 24, 2026/Lecture 9

Attanasio, O., Goldberg, P., and Pavcnik, N., “Trade Reforms and Wage Inequality in Colombia,” *Journal of Development Economics* 74:2 (2004), 331-366.

Rosales O., and Herreros, S., “Trade and Trade Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean: Recent Trends, Emerging Challenges,” *Journal of International Affairs*, 66:2 (2013), 31-49

**China and Trade:** March 31, 2026/ Lecture 10

Autor, D., Dorn, D., and Hanson, G., “The China Syndrome: Local Labor Market Effects of Import Competition in the United States,” *American Economic Review* 103:6 (2013), 2121-2168.

Sun, P., and Heshmati, “International Trade and its Effects on Economic Growth in China”, *IZA Discussion Papers*, 5151, (August 2010)

**Note:** This course syllabus and schedules are subject to revisions and changes. These changes will be announced in class, via the course Brightspace site, or by email. However, it is the student's responsibility to remain informed about revisions and changes.

## **Faculty of Science Student Resources and Support**

### **University Policies and Programs**

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates):

[http://www.dal.ca/academics/important\\_dates.html](http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html)

Classroom Recording Protocol: <https://www.dal.ca/content/dam/www/about/leadership-and-governance/university-policies/class-recording-protocol.pdf>

Dalhousie Grading Practices Policies: <https://www.dal.ca/content/dam/www/about/leadership-and-governance/university-policies/grading-practices-policy.pdf>

Grade Appeal Process: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-a-grade.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-a-grade.html)

Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://www.dal.ca/content/dam/www/about/leadership-and-governance/university-policies/sexualized-violence-policy.pdf>

Scent-Free Program: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

### **Learning and Support Resources**

General Academic Support – Advising (Halifax): [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html)

General Academic Support – Advising (Truro): [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/ssc.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/ssc.html)

Student Health & Wellness Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html)

On Track (helps you transition into university, and supports you through your first year at Dalhousie and beyond): [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/On-track.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/On-track.html)

Indigenous Student Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html)

Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Relations: <https://www.dal.ca/about/mission-vision-values/mikmaq-indigenous-relations.html>

Elders-in-Residence (The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel, and support. Visit the office in the Indigenous Student Centre or contact the program at [elders@dal.ca](mailto:elders@dal.ca) or 902-494-6803: <https://www.dal.ca/about/mission-vision-values/mikmaq-indigenous-relations/elders-in-residence-and-traditional-knowledge-keepers.html>

Black Student Advising Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/black-student-advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html)

International Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/international-centre.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html)

LGBTQ2SIA+ Collaborative: <https://www.dal.ca/about/mission-vision-values/equity-diversity-inclusion-and-accessibility/about-office-equity-inclusion/community-specific-groups/lgbtq2sia-collaborative.html>

Dalhousie Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca/>

Copyright Office: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>

Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services: <https://www.dsu.ca/dsas?rq=student%20advocacy>

Dalhousie Ombudsperson: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/ombudsperson.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/ombudsperson.html)

Human Rights and Equity Services: <https://www.dal.ca/about/mission-vision-values/equity-diversity-inclusion-and-accessibility/about-office-equity-inclusion/human-rights-and-equity-services.html>

Writing Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html)

Study Skills/Tutoring: [http://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html](http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html)

Faculty of Science Advising Support: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/undergrad-students/degree-planning.html>

## **Safety**

Biosafety: <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html>

Chemical Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html>

Radiation Safety: <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html>

Laser Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety/laser-safety.html>