INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON
Department of Economics

ECON-E 303 Survey of International Economics
Spring 2026 *

Mon & Wed, 3:55–5:10pm, Lindley Hall (LH) 035

	Instructor	Graduate Assistant
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1 Course Description:

This course examines the causes and consequences of international economic integration. We begin with an overview of global trade patterns and introduce the gravity model of trade. We then study classical and modern theories of international trade, including (a) comparative advantage, (b) economies of scale, and (c) imperfect competition. Building on these foundations, we analyze common trade policies and the political forces that shape them. We also explore how trade and international financial flows enter national income and balance-of-payments accounts, how exchange rates are determined and managed, and how countries organize themselves through international economic arrangements and policy frameworks. In the final part of the course, we turn to classic and contemporary issues in international trade, with particular attention to how trade interacts with development, migration, the environment, and labor markets - market failures that are increasingly central to international economics.

2 Course Prerequisites:

All topics covered in B251 and B252 are assumed to be known and will be used throughout the course. Prior background in calculus or statistics may be helpful, but is not required.

3 Mode of Instruction

Lectures and in-class discussion will form the core of our class meetings. In addition, optional Zoom review sessions may be offered periodically to revisit key concepts, work through practice problems, and answer questions about assignments or exams. When appropriate, some class meetings may also be held via Zoom to accommodate instructional needs.

4 Learning Objectives:

(i) Apply core theories of international trade to interpret real-world trade patterns and outcomes.

(ii) Assess how comparative advantage, factor endowments, and economies of scale shape trade flows, specialization, and the gains from trade.

(iii) Evaluate how trade costs and policy instruments (e.g., tariffs, quotas, and non-tariff barriers) affect trade, prices, and welfare.

(iv) Explain how trade and international financial flows are recorded in national income accounts and the balance of payments, and how exchange rates are determined and managed.

(v) Use basic empirical tools and data to measure openness, describe trade patterns, and interpret quantitative evidence on international economic integration.

(vi) Demonstrate an informed understanding of current debates in international trade policy, including the effects of globalization on offshoring, immigration, human rights, and the environment.

*Last Updated January 22, 2026

5 Required Readings:

We will primarily use the following textbook:

(i) McLaren, John (2012). *International Trade: Economic Analysis of Globalization and Policy*. John Wiley & Sons.

(ii) Additional weekly readings (mainly journal articles, with occasional policy reports) and notes will be posted on Canvas and assigned throughout the semester to deepen your understanding of the global economy and international trade.

6 Expectations

My expectation is that you come to each class prepared to engage fully, having completed all assigned readings in advance. Active participation and mutual respect are essential to our learning environment. You are expected to uphold a high standard of academic diligence and to invest the effort needed to master the course material. If anything is unclear or you need support, please reach out; I am happy to help. In return, you can expect me to be enthusiastic, clear, fair, and consistent in my teaching and course policies. My primary goal is to help you succeed in this course and in your broader academic path by building the skills and knowledge you need.

7 Course Organization:

(i) **Canvas Quizzes**: There are 11 quizzes for the course, each worth 10 points for a total of 11% of the course grade. Quizzes will be assigned regularly (see the tentative schedule in 13) and will include problems related to material covered up to that point. Each quiz also includes short-answer and/or an analytical question; completing these questions on all 11 quizzes can earn up to 44 extra-credit points. Please note that: a) all quizzes are due in Canvas by 11:59 PM on the listed due date; b) to be fair and consistent with every student, *late quizzes will not be accepted and will receive 0 points*.

Also note that each chapter in the course textbook includes multiple-choice practice questions on the publisher's free student companion site. These questions are a helpful way to prepare for the exams, so completing them is strongly recommended.

(ii) **Empirical Assignments**: You will complete four empirical assignments (25 points each) using real-world data to analyze trade and policy questions. These assignments are designed to reinforce core course concepts, build practical data skills, and strengthen your ability to interpret empirical evidence. Together, the empirical assignments are worth 10% (100 points) of the course grade. They will be posted on Canvas with detailed instructions and links to the required data. *All empirical assignments must be completed individually, and all submitted work must be your own.*

(iii) **Group Presentations:** Throughout the semester, you will work in groups of 3 to develop a policy presentation that advocates for the adoption, reform, or suspension of an international economic policy action. Each group must propose its own topic, subject to *instructor approval*. Topics must align with course themes and be supported by credible sources and course materials. Each group must submit a *one-page project proposal* outlining the policy question, a clear thesis, the main theoretical framework from the course, the type of evidence you plan to use, and a short preliminary reference list. Final topic approval must be secured by Friday, March 6 at 11:59PM. During the final week of classes, each group will deliver an 8-minute in-class presentation summarizing the main argument, theoretical framework, evidence, and policy implications. Final slides must be submitted on Canvas no later than Friday, April 24 at 11:59 PM. *Failure to secure topic approval or submit slides by the respective deadlines will result in a score of 0 for the group presentation for all group members.*

Slides must be clear and professional, with effective use of visuals (e.g., charts, graphs, tables). The group project is worth 10% of the course grade (100 points). Evaluation will focus on research depth, clarity and organization, appropriate use of theory and evidence, and presentation effectiveness.

(iv) **Attendance:** To encourage regular attendance and engagement, I will use *Top Hat* to record attendance each class meeting. Attendance is worth up to 40 points (4% of the course grade). There are 25 regular lecture meetings this semester, plus 2 meetings during presentation week, for a total of 27 meetings. You may miss up to 5 meetings without penalty, however, earning attendance credit in all 27 meetings can earn up to 16 extra-credit points. Please note that to earn full attendance credit on a given day, you must: a) complete the Top Hat check-in *at the beginning* and check-out *at the end* of class; b) participation is expected during in-class activities and discussions, and lack of engagement may result in 0 attendance points for that day; c) you must use *your own* device and Top Hat account – using another student's device/account or allowing someone else to use yours will result in a minimum score of 0 attendance points and may lead to further academic action.

(v) **Exams:** The examinations in this course will assess both your understanding and your ability to clearly communicate economic concepts through a mix of multiple-choice questions, graphical and numerical problems, and short answer questions. Clear, accurate, and grammatically correct explanations of economic ideas are an important part of your evaluation. There will be three exams in total. The first two exams will be held in our regular classroom during scheduled lecture times; each is worth 200 points (20% of your final grade). The comprehensive final exam, worth 250 points (25% of your final grade), will be held on **Monday, May 4, 2026 at 3pm**. Please ensure your availability for the scheduled final exam date, as no alternative exam times will be offered. Refer to the IU Examination Policy for more information.

(vi) **Excused Absence:** Excused absences may be granted for the following reasons: medical emergencies, family emergencies, IU-approved curricular and extracurricular activities, religious observances, and other extenuating circumstances. If you anticipate an absence for any of these reasons, you are required to notify me prior to the class period and provide the necessary documentation to support your absence. If you are required to miss class due to isolation requirements, you will need to complete the in-class assignments from home during the assigned class period. You will need to contact me in advance of the class period to set this up. For religious holidays, students should notify me of any potential conflicts by the third week of the course. Use the following link to share any religious observances you believe should be included: Religious holidays and observances.

(vii) **Make-Up Policies:** If you miss an exam due to a university-approved absence, a short-term medical issue, or another reason listed in (vi), you will take a make-up exam during our regular class time *one week* after the scheduled exam. Please note that make-ups are offered only for exams. Late assignments (including quizzes, empirical assignments, and presentation slides) will not be accepted; *any work submitted after the posted deadline will receive 0 points.* In cases of extended university-approved absences, I will take the documented circumstances into account when calculating your final grade.

8 Grading Scale:

The final grade for the course is based on the scale below.

	Possible Points	% of Final Grade
Quizzes	110	11%
Empirical Assignments	100	10%
Group Presentations	100	10%
Attendance	40	4%
Exam 1	200	20%
Exam 2	200	20%
Final Exam	250	25%
Total	**1000**	**100%**

Grade	GPA	Points	Percentage
A+	4.0	970 – 1000	97 – 100%
A	4.0	920 – 969	92 – 96.9%
A-	3.7	880 – 919	88 – 91.9%
B+	3.3	840 – 879	84 – 87.9%
B	3.0	810 – 839	81 – 83.9%
B-	2.7	770 – 809	77 – 80.9%
C+	2.3	740 – 769	74 – 76.9%
C	2.0	700 – 739	70 – 73.9%
C-	1.7	670 – 699	67 – 69.9%
D+	1.3	640 – 669	64 – 66.9%
D	1.0	600 – 639	60 – 63.9%
D-	0.7	550 – 599	55 – 59.9%
F	0.0	0 – 549	0 – 54.9%

9 Academic Misconduct:

At Indiana University, academic dishonesty is strictly prohibited. To ensure that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty, I strongly advise you to read the IU Code of Students' Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. When you submit an assignment with your name on it, you are signifying that the work contained therein is yours, unless otherwise cited or referenced. Any ideas or materials taken from another source must be fully acknowledged. Do not share your completed work with other students. If plagiarism or cheating occurs, all students involved will be considered responsible even if you were unaware that academic misconduct would occur. Ignorance of what constitutes academic misconduct is not a valid excuse. All suspected violations of the Code will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Student Conduct). Sanctions for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on the assignment, a reduction in your final course grade, or a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities. It is important to note that a grade of "F" for academic dishonesty cannot be expunged from your academic record. If you are unsure about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test or exam in this course, speak with your instructor before submitting your assignment.

10 Additional Resources:

(i) **UITS Support Center:** For 24x7 technical support, see: or https://uits.iu.edu/.

(ii) **Knowledge Base:** For answers to questions about information technology at IU, see: https://kb.iu.edu/

(iii) **Student Academic Center:** For questions about tutoring, research, career advise, etc. see: https://sac.indiana.edu/

(iv) **IU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):** Mental health services are available on campus to students in need of support. For more information, see https://healthcenter.indiana.edu/counseling/index.html.

(v) **Writing Tutorial Services (WTS):** For assistance at any phase of the writing process, from brainstorming to polishing the final draft, see: https://wts.indiana.edu

(vi) **IUPD:** For immediate emergency assistance, dial 9-1-1. For non-emergency assistance, call (812)-855-4111 or visit the page: https://protect.iu.edu/

11 Important Information:

(i) **Disability Services Statement:** Indiana University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. It is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics unrelated to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy, by state or federal authorities. You can contact the Office of Disability Services for Students (DSS) at http:/disabilitiesservices@Indiana.edu or 812-855-7578. If you desire classroom/testing accommodations for a disability, contact your instructor outside class to present the written supporting memorandum of accommodation from the Office of Disability Services for Students.

(ii) **Course Withdrawals:** The last day for an automatic "W" is *Sunday, March 15 2026*. It is also the last day to get a withdrawal slip signed without a special petition. Please note that poor performance in a course is not grounds for a late withdrawal. Add or drop classes.

(iii) **Generative AI:** Cheating is "... using, providing, or attempting to use or provide unauthorized assistance, materials, information, or study aids in any form" (Code, II: Responsibilities B,4,a). Use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, Claude etc.) is permitted in this course only for (i) Empirical Assignments and (ii) Group Presentations, and only in ways consistent with the assignment instructions. *Any other use of generative AI for course work (including quizzes, exams, or any graded work not explicitly allowing AI) is not permitted and constitutes academic misconduct*. Unauthorized use will result in an academic sanction and will be reported according to university policy. If you are unsure whether a particular use is allowed, contact me before submitting your work.

(iv) **Online Course Materials:** The instructor teaching this course holds the exclusive right to distribute, modify, post, and reproduce course materials, including all written materials, study guides, lectures, assignments, exercises, and exams. Some of the course content may be downloadable, but you should not distribute, post, or alter the instructor's intellectual property. While you are permitted to take notes on the online materials and lectures posted for this course for your personal use, you are not permitted to re-post in another forum, distribute, or reproduce content from this course without the express written permission of the instructor.

(v) **GroupMe and Other External Messaging Platforms:** You may receive emails from other students about joining GroupMe, Discord, or similar external group messaging platforms for individual classes via Canvas. Even though invitations to join the group may be issued through Canvas, this does not imply the endorsement of the course instructor. While these platforms can be an effective way of contacting classmates and clarifying information related to the course, they can also be sources of unauthorized information sharing or collaboration. Collaborative effort on assignments, quizzes, and exams, including sharing or discussing answers when the instructor has not expressly authorized collaboration, is considered cheating. If academic dishonesty occurs via a messaging platform, everyone involved in the thread may be found responsible for academic misconduct since membership in the group suggests that that they have been able to view the information shared.

(vi) **Class Disruption:** Any action or activity that disrupts the class and the learning environment for other students is strictly unacceptable. This includes but is not limited to: talking loudly during lecture, noisily entering lecture late or exiting lecture early, playing distracting videos, games, or music on laptops or devices during lecture, or sleeping during lecture. Please be considerate of your fellow classmates. If a student engages in disruptive behavior and continues to be disruptive after repeated warnings, she/he will be asked to leave the lecture.

(vii) **Note selling:** Various commercial services request that students upload course materials (e.g., instructor's notes, study guides, assignment descriptions). You are not permitted to sell the instructor's materials or upload course materials to a third-party site – even after the course has ended. Violations of this policy will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Student Conduct) as academic misconduct; there will be an academic sanction and the incident will be reported. Additionally, you should know that selling a faculty member's course materials using IU email or other IU systems may also constitute a violation of IU information technology and IU intellectual property policies; additional consequences may result.

(viii) **Submitting Assessments:** I expect you to do your work without assistance from others. I expect you to submit your own work for module quizzes, empirical assignments and exams. A failure to do so violates the IU Code.

(ix) **Honor Pledge:** As a member of the IU community, you are expected to follow the IU Code of Conduct. Before and after the exam, you will be asked to confirm that all the work you submit is entirely your own. You must affirm that you will neither give nor receive any assistance on this exam. This includes refraining from communicating with other students during the entire exam period, sharing exam content with others, or saving copies of the exam for future use.

(x) **Sexual Misconduct Statement:** As your instructor, one of my responsibilities is to create a positive learning environment for all students. IU policy prohibits sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, sexual exploitation, dating, and domestic violence. If you have experienced sexual misconduct or know someone who has, the University can help. If you seek help and want to speak to someone confidentially, you can make an appointment with the IU Sexual Assault Crisis Services at (812) 855-5711 or contact a Confidential Victim Advocate at (812) 856-2469 or cva@indiana.edu.

It is important that you know that University policy requires me to share certain information brought to my attention about potential sexual misconduct with the campus Deputy Sexual Misconduct & Title IX Coordinator or the University Sexual Misconduct & Title IX Coordinator. In that event, those individuals will work to ensure that appropriate measures are taken and resources are made available. Protecting student privacy is of utmost concern, and information will only be shared with those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist. I encourage you to visit http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/index.html to learn more.

(xi) **SEA 202: Intellectual Diversity:** This course includes class materials that present a variety of topics and arguments. It is possible connections between our course and current or historical events outside the classroom will come up in (lectures/class discussions/ assignments). Those connections may require careful thought rather than being immediately evident. Still, understanding and analyzing connections among ideas and events is a core skill in a college education. It will serve you well in your future endeavors beyond IU.

12 Important Disclaimer:

Be aware that I may modify the syllabus as required throughout the course of the semester. Students will receive prompt notification of any changes via email or during class.

13 Tentative Schedule

PART I: FOUNDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE		
Week 1	Jan 12 & 14	**Module 0:** Course Introduction - Logistics, Syllabus and Other Resources **Module 1:** Trade in the Global Economy - Gravity of International Trade - Required Readings: Chapter 1 and the article posted on Canvas - Quiz 1 due on Jan 17 by 11:59pm - Empirical Assignment 1 due on Jan 23 by 11:59pm
Week 2, 3	*Jan 19*	*Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No classes*
	Jan 21, 26, & 28	**Module 2:** Trade and Productivity - Ricardian Model - Required Readings: Chapter 2 and the article posted on Canvas - Quiz 2 due on Jan 31 by 11:59pm
Week 4	Feb 2 & 4	**Module 3:** Trade, Economies of Scale, and Imperfect Competition - Required Readings: Chapter 3 and the article posted on Canvas - Quiz 3 due on Feb 7 by 11:59pm - Empirical Assignment 2 due on Feb 11 by 11:59pm
Week 5	Feb 9 & 11	**Module 4:** Gains and Losses from Trade - Specific-Factors Model - Required Reading: Chapter 5 and the article posted on Canvas - Quiz 4 due on Feb 14 by 11:59pm
Week 6	Feb 16 & 18	**Module 5:** Trade and Factor Endowments - Heckscher-Ohlin Model - Required Reading: Chapter 6 and the article posted on Canvas - Quiz 5 due on Feb 21 by 11:59pm
	Monday Feb 23	**Exam 1: Modules 1 – 5**

PART II: INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY		
Weeks 7, 8	Feb 25, Mar 2 & 4	**Module 6:** Trade Policy Under Perfect Competition - Tariffs, Subsidies, and Quotas - Required Reading: Chapter 7 and the article posted on Canvas - Quiz 6 due on Mar 7 by 11:59pm - Empirical Assignment 3 due on Mar 11 by 11:59pm
Week 9	Mar 9 & 11	**Module 7:** Trade Policy and Political Economy Under Imperfect Competition - Required Readings: Chapters 8 & 9 and the article posted on Canvas - Quiz 7 due on Mar 14 by 11:59pm
	Mar 16 – 20	*Spring Break - No classes*
PART III: EXCHANGE RATES AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEMS		
Week 11	Mar 23 & 25	**Module 8:** National Income Accounts and the Balance of Trade - Required Reading: Assigned chapter notes and the article posted on Canvas - Quiz 8 due on Mar 28 by 11:59pm - Empirical Assignment 4 due on Apr 1 by 11:59pm
Weeks 12, 13	Mar 30, Apr 1 & 6	**Module 9:** Exchange Rates and the Foreign Exchange Market - Required Reading: Assigned chapter notes and the article posted on Canvas - Quiz 9 due on Apr 7 by 11:59pm
	Wednesday Apr 8	**Exam 2: Modules 1 – 9**
PART IV: SELECTED TOPICS IN CLASSIC AND MODERN TRADE ISSUES		
Week 14	Apr 13 & 15	**Module 10:** Challenges in Trade - Offshoring, Immigration and Human Rights - Required Readings: Chapters 11, 12 & 14 and the article posted on Canvas - Quiz 10 due on Apr 18 by 11:59pm
Week 15	Apr 20 & 22	**Module 11:** Challenges in Trade - The Environment - Required Readings: Chapter 13 and the article posted on Canvas - Quiz 11 due on Apr 25 by 11:59pm
PART V: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS		
Week 16	Apr 27 & 29	**Group Project Presentations** (schedule TBA) - Project Proposal due on March 6 by 11:59pm - Presentation Slides due on April 24 by 11:59pm
Comprehensive Final Exam is scheduled on Monday, May 4, 2026, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. (location TBA)		

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