

# EC 340: International Economics, Fall 2022, Portland State University

Portland State is located in the traditional homelands of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Watlala Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other indigenous nations who made their homes along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. By recognizing these communities, we honor their legacies, their lives, and their descendants.

Instructor: [Dr. Tinkler](#)

Delivery method: Online, no scheduled meeting times.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 12-1 .pm on Zoom; Wednesdays from 12-2 p.m. in URBN 450E; and by appointment on Zoom (send email to above address to schedule).

## Course description

International economics is the study of the economic ties between nation states. We will answer questions such as: Why do nations trade? Why do they sometimes restrict trade? Why does international trade create “winners” and “losers” and cause political strife? Why does the US have a trade deficit? What determines exchange rates and why do they matter? What is a trade war? Is an embargo an effective tool to punish nations that violate international norms and laws? Is the march towards increasing globalization now stalled as old fault lines in Europe and elsewhere reopen?

## Course materials

The textbook is expensive and you do not need to buy it unless you are in a position to do so. Online materials obviate the need for a textbook. A copy of the (excellent) textbook is on reserve at the PSU library.

*International Economics* by Thomas Pugel (recent edition)

## Course Requirements

Assignment	Percentage
10 online quizzes	50%
8 online discussions	40%
Country study slide show	10%

## Course calendar

(Optional textbook chapters in parentheses)

### **Week 1 (Tuesday, September 26)**

- Introduction to International Economics (Chapter 1)
- The Basic Theory of International Trade (Chapter 2)

Deliverables:

- Check *People* in side-bar menu to find your assigned country.
- Quiz 1 due October 1 and Discussion 1 due October 2

### **Week 2 (October 2)**

- Comparative Advantage (Chapter 3)
- Factor Proportions (Chapter 4)

Deliverables:

- Quiz 2 due October 8 and Discussion 2 due October 9

### **Week 3 (October 9)**

- The Gainers and Losers from Trade (Chapter 5)
- Alternative Theories of Trade (Chapter 6)

Deliverables:

- Quiz 3 due October 15 and Discussion 3 due October 16

### **Week 4 (October 16)**

- Tariffs (Chapter 8)
- Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade (Chapter 9)

Deliverables:

- Quiz 4 due October 22 and Discussion 4 due October 23

### **Week 5 (October 23)**

- Arguments for and Against Protectionism (Chapter 10)
- Trade wars

Deliverables:

- Quiz 5 due October 29 and Discussion 5 due October 30

### **Week 6 (October 30)**

- International Factor Movements (Chapter 15)

Deliverables:

- Quiz 6 due November 5 and Discussion 6 due November 6

### **Week 7 (November 5) Veterans Day is November 10, PSU is closed.**

- The Balance of Payments (Chapter 16)

Deliverables:

- Quiz 7 due November 12 and Discussion 7 due November 13

### **Week 8 (November 13)**

- The Foreign Exchange Market (Chapter 17)
- Forward Exchange and International Financial Investment (Chapter 18)

Deliverables:

- Quiz 8 due November 19 and country study presentation due November 20

### **Week 9 (November 20) Thanksgiving Day is November 23. PSU is closed November 23 and 24**

- Embargoes and the decline of the post-war consensus on integration (Chapter 12)

Deliverables:

- Quiz 9 due November 26 and Discussion 8 due November 27

### **Week 10 (November 27)**

- The environmental and climate change effects of international trade (Chapter 13)

Deliverables:

- **Quiz 10 (final quiz) due December 8**

## **Course policies**

### **Affirmative Action**

PSU supports equal opportunity for all, regardless of age, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion or creed, sex or gender, sexual or gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other basis in law.

### **Disability Resources at PSU**

Students with accommodations approved through the Disability Resource Center are responsible for contacting the faculty member prior to, or during, the first week of term to discuss any accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval should contact the DRC immediately.

### **Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is expected and required of students enrolled in this course. Suspected academic dishonesty in this course will be handled according to the procedures set out in the *Student Code of Conduct*.