

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ECON 221 - Introduction to International Economics (F17, SP18, F18, SP19)

This course explores the theoretical foundations and empirical realities of international trade flows, commercial policies (tariffs, quotas, etc.) and international finance. The course emphasizes the welfare implications of international trade and commercial policies and links these to discussion of disputes over international trade agreements. The international finance portion of the course covers the foreign exchange market, balance of payments analysis and an introduction to open economy macroeconomics. Recommended for students majoring in international studies. This course counts as a Group A elective and serves as a prerequisite for ECON 361.

ECON 494 - Multinational Corporations (SP19)

Multinational corporations are a primary driver of the rapid globalization of the world economy that we have witnessed in the past couple of decades. This course is comprised of two primary elements: 1) a theoretical component that introduces the more advanced theories of international trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) and 2) an applied component that discusses the role of multinational corporations and exporters in shaping globalization. The theories developed in this class expose students to the current paradigm in the international trade and FDI literatures focused on heterogeneous firm-level analysis. These derivations provide a sound platform from which to evaluate the causes and consequences of international trade and FDI and provide a natural transition for contemplating the role of exporting firms and multinational corporations in shaping globalization. Throughout this applied component of the course, we will examine issues, such as the role of productivity and diversity in entering foreign markets, the labor market effects in home and host countries, the correlation with economic development and inequality, convergence or polarization of global cultures, and issues related to international trade policy and transportation. This course counts as a Group E elective.

ECON 119 – Principles of Economics (F18)

The production, exchange, and consumption of goods and services have been cornerstones of human societies throughout history. Daily, we engage in these activities to satisfy basic needs and improve well-being. This introductory course offers a broad overview of the principles guiding individual decisions as well as aggregate economic systems that function to serve these goals. This course is divided into three sections. 1) Students are exposed to some of the most fundamental models of economics, including the production possibilities frontier, the notion of comparative advantage, and market supply and demand. Our discussions will shape the students' economic thinking and point to one of the key issues in economics: the efficient allocation of scarce resources. 2) We study the behavior and conceptualize the decision making process of individual consumers and firms in the economy and investigate the sensitivity of these choices to different market structures. In addition to final products, we also consider markets for factors of production (labor, natural resources, etc.). 3) In contrast to these microeconomic topics, we also focus on macroeconomic issues, such as national income, the inflation rate, or the unemployment rate, and explore the connections between them. We consider the drivers of economic growth, causes of business cycles, and the role of fiscal and monetary policy in determining these key macroeconomic variables.

EC 360 - Industrial Organization & Public Policy (F16)

This course examines market performance and policy to address issues in market performance. Specifically, the course develops a framework to assess market performance based on economic efficiency and then proceeds to apply the general framework to competition policy and economic regulation using the economic and mathematical tools developed in intermediate microeconomics. The course starts with an introduction to and description of industrial organization and the public policy options available. With this in place, the course then explores various cases and both the regulatory instruments used in, and the relevant problems associated with, each case.

EC 380 - International Economic Issues (F15, W16, Su16)

The purpose of this course is to examine international economic issues using the economic tools developed in EC 201 and 202. This course is broken into two parts. The first part of the course focuses on international trade and has three primary goals. The first goal is to become familiar with the primary economic models that explain why countries trade with one another. Theories based off of technological differences, resource differences, and competitiveness differences are discussed and compared to the observed patterns of trade. The second goal is to analyze the effects of international trade on specific groups within a country as well as the country as a whole. Particular attention is given to the result that, although countries as a whole tend to benefit from international trade, some groups within a country should be expected to lose from trade. The third goal is to discuss what government policies can be used to effect patterns of international trade and how these impact special interests within a country as well as the country as a whole. Examples of these policies include tariffs, quotas, and free trade agreements.

The second part of the course turns from trade in goods to trade in financial instruments (international finance). Here too there are three primary goals. First, students learn how international financial markets are structured and how currencies relate to one another through foreign exchange markets. From this foundation, the second goal is to develop an understanding over how countries' individual macroeconomic policies such as inflation impact other countries through these exchange rate markets. The third goal of the course is to discuss how government policies can insulate a country from international risks such as currency crises. Policies discussed included fixed versus floating exchange rates, currency unions (such as the Euro area), and the role of international organizations (such as the International Monetary Fund).

EC 313 - Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory (Su14, Sp15)

Macroeconomics is the study of the aggregate economy, whether it is at a national or global level. Topics covered in the course will include the determination of gross domestic income, unemployment, the Federal Reserve, inflation, and economic growth. The class will be model-focused, which will require limited calculus, algebra, and the ability to interpret graphs. The objective of the class is to give you the ability to critically think about macroeconomic issues. Accordingly, there will be an emphasis placed on current events and connecting the material to the real economy and government policy.