

Course Information

Course Number: INTA 625
Course Title: International Trade Policy
Section: 600
Time: M 8:55 – 11:45 am
Location: Allen 1058
Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Details

Instructor: Luis Espinoza
Office: Allen 1051
Phone: 979.862.8845
E-Mail: lespinoza@tamu.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course is an introduction to International Trade Policy, designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of its economic principles, rules, policies, and political implications. Key topics include:

- **Economics:** Why do countries trade? Who wins and loses from trade? Who wins and loses from protectionism? Are trade deficits harmful?
- **Rules and Institutions:** What is the World Trade Organization (WTO) and how does it operate?
- **Policies:** What are the differences between quotas, tariffs, and subsidies?
- **Politics:** Does trade affect employment? How is trade policy used for geopolitical purposes?

By the end of the course, students will understand the benefits and costs of international trade, how it is negotiated and regulated between countries, and will be able to evaluate the potential implications of various trade policies.

Course Prerequisites

None, but INTA 608 is strongly encouraged.

Special Course Designation

This course is required for the International Affairs Masters degree. This course also provides opportunities to develop writing skills.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Critically evaluate arguments for and against free trade;
- Understand the distributional consequences of free trade and trade restrictions;
- Identify the key instruments of trade policy and understand their effects;
- Recognize the main institutions and rules that regulate international trade;
- Assess the potential implications of trade policies.

Textbook and/or Resource Materials

None required, but you may find the following books useful:

- [Krueger, A. O. \(2020\). *International trade: What everyone needs to know*. Oxford University Press.](#)
- [Hoekman, B. M., & Kostecki, M. M. \(2009\). *The political economy of the world trading system: The WTO and beyond \(3rd ed.\)*. Oxford University Press.](#)

Grading Policy

The standard Bush School scale will apply:

90%-100%	A	Extraordinary, excellent work and mastery of concept.
80%-89%	B	Good work and solid command of concept.
70%-79%	C	Adequate work and sufficient understanding of concept.
60%-69%	D	Poor work, little understanding of concept.
0%-59%	F	Lack of work, no understanding of concept.

The class grade will be based in the following criteria:

5%	- Attendance.
5%	- Engagement.
40%	- Quizzes.
20%	- Final paper.
10%	- Peer review.
20%	- Presentation in class.

Attendance points are awarded based on the number of sessions attended, accounting for up to 5% of the final grade. **Engagement** also makes up 5% and reflects your interest and effort in the course, demonstrated through class participation, attending office hours, email communication, and similar activities. There will be 6 **quizzes** in total, but only the top 5 scores will count towards your final grade, with each quiz contributing 8%. This policy provides flexibility to support students in succeeding in the course.

Final paper and presentation

The paper can focus on any topic related to international trade policy. Examples include an empirical analysis of trade changes following a trade agreement's implementation, a comparison of different agreements' provisions, or an in-depth examination of a specific course topic.

To help you develop your writing skills, drafts of the final paper's components are submitted in stages. It starts with a **project proposal memo** that outlines the problem or issue, identifies the audience for the final product, lists the stakeholders, specifies the appropriate deliverable for the context and purpose, and details the development plan.

The due dates for each part of the paper—proposal, literature review, theory, and data— as well as for the first draft and final paper, are listed on the course schedule. After submitting drafts, you will have one week to write a 1-2 page **peer review** of a randomly assigned draft, which will contribute 10% to your final grade.

The professor will provide feedback on the proposal, literature review, theory, and data sections. Peer reviews will offer comments on the draft. The final presentation will be an opportunity to receive additional feedback from the class.

Late Work Policy

Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of each session and will last for 30 minutes. Students who arrive late will still need to finish at the same time as those who started on time. If your circumstances change over the semester and prevent you from consistently arriving on time, please come talk to me so we can find a solution.

The **paper** sections are only accepted after the deadline indicated on the syllabus if the student has an excused absence. Work submitted by a student as makeup work for an excused absence is not considered late work and is exempted from the late work policy ([Student Rule 7](#)).

Course Schedule

Date	Class	Topic	Events
August 19	1	Overview of the course + historical evolution of trade and trade policy	
August 26	2	Why do countries trade? What do they gain from trade?	
September 2		<i>Labor Day</i>	
September 9	3	Who gains and who loses from trade?	
September 16	4	Trade policy with Perfect Competition, part I	Quiz 1
September 23	5	Trade policy with Perfect Competition, part II	Paper proposal due
September 30	6	Trade policy under market imperfections, part I	Quiz 2
October 7		<i>Fall Break</i>	
October 14	7	Trade policy under market imperfections, part II Trade, wages and jobs	Lit. review due
October 21	8	Do trade deficits matter?	Quiz 3
October 28	9	Trade rules and institutions: the GATT and the WTO Dispute settlement and retaliation; safeguards Anti-dumping and subsidies	Theory due + Quiz 4
November 4	10	Trade and intellectual property (TRIPS) + Trade in services (GATS) and agriculture	Data due
November 11	11	Preferential Trade agreements and regional integration	Quiz 5
November 18	12	The challenges of deeper integration	Draft due
November 25	13	Trade and development Current issues: populist backlash, geopolitical challenges, resilience	Peer-review due
December 2	14	Presentations	Final papers due (5 pm CTS)

University Policies

This section outlines the university level policies that must be included in each course syllabus. The TAMU Faculty Senate established the wording of these policies.

Attendance Policy

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Makeup Work Policy

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

"The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

"Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case" ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)).

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Resources office, located in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, a person who is subjected to the alleged conduct will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University's goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns related to mental and/or physical health in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [University Health Services](#) or download the [TELUS Health Student Support app](#) for 24/7 access to professional counseling in multiple languages. Walk-in services for urgent, non-emergency needs are available during normal business hours at University Health Services locations; call 979.458.4584 for details.

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's [Title IX webpage](#).

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors influencing a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy self-care practices by utilizing the resources and services available through [University Health Services](#). Students needing a listening ear can contact University Health Services (979.458.4584) or call the Texas A&M Helpline (979.845.2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends while classes are in session. The [TELUS Health Student Support app](#) provides access to professional counseling in multiple languages anytime, anywhere by phone or chat, and the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline offers 24-hour emergency support at 988 or [988lifeline.org](#).