

European and International Trade (Master Year 1 / Fall)

Master International Affairs, Strategic Policy Analysis and the Global Economy / Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Law

Introduction

This course introduces European and international trade through a combination of historical evolution, conceptual foundations, and policy challenges. It examines how trade has been conceptualized across economic and International Relations (IR) theories, from early state-centric approaches such as mercantilism to current debates about openness, interdependence, and economic security. Particular attention is given to the role of multilateral institutions, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to the growing importance of regionalism with a focus on the European Union (EU). Students will connect theory to practice through a case study and develop skills in analytical writing and presentation. The course also extends beyond traditional trade-related topics to include a policy component.

Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a good understanding of the historical evolution of trade, key schools of thought, and core trade concepts;
- Apply theories/concepts to explain why countries trade the way they do today;
- Evaluate how different ideas about trade affect real-world policy decisions and what these decisions mean for governments and businesses;
- Dissect the roles of the EU and WTO, weighing their strengths and weaknesses;
- Develop applied analytical and policy-oriented skills

Program

Methods of Instruction

Each session combines institutional and historical material with economic analysis and discussion of concrete European and international cases. Students are expected to attend the lectures, review the material presented in class and be able to connect institutional mechanisms with the broader economic questions discussed throughout the semester.

Assessment and Final Grade

In-Class Participation! 30%

Group Project (Summary & Presentation): 30%

Quiz: 10%

Final Exam: 30%

Students who do not pass the course are required to take a re-sit examination and will be informed by the administration of the examination date and format at a later date.

Duration

1 semester

Teaching languages

- English

Conditions of submission

If you need more information about this course, kindly send an email to: incomingdri@icp.fr

Course Policy

Attendance and Punctuality

Students are expected to attend all classes punctually, complete required readings before class, and actively contribute to discussions and in-class activities. Participation means meaningful engagement, not mere physical presence. Any absence, arriving more than five minutes late, or leaving early without prior notice will result in a reduction of the participation grade.

Academic integrity and Plagiarism

Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) submitting work that is not your own; copying work verbatim or paraphrasing text without using proper citations and sources; reusing your own prior work without authorization (self-plagiarism); submitting another person's work as your own and presenting ideas data or analysis from any source without acknowledgment.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Per the policy within the Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Law, (FASSED), the use of AI tools is generally permitted unless specified in this course. However, students remain fully responsible for the content, accuracy, originality and integrity of all submitted work. They are not to be used as a substitute for your thinking, analysis or writing.

Special Accommodations

Students with disabilities may qualify for special accommodations. These provisions are designed to facilitate an equitable academic experience for students. If you believe you qualify for any accommodations, please contact the master's degree coordinator, Yoanna Nikolova early in the semester to ensure timely arrangements.

Course Outline

Introduction

Course Overview and Rules

Assessment Criteria

Guidance on Group Project

Preliminary Discussion: What Is Trade? Concepts and History

Reading list for the following weeks

Economic/IR Theories and Concepts

Realism, Liberalism, Mercantilism

Absolute Advantage, Comparative Advantage, Tariff, Non-Tariff Barriers, Customs, FTAs, Subsidy, etc.

Multilateralism in Trade

World Trade Organization

Multilateralism and Regionalism in Trade

World Trade Organization (continued)

European Union

Further Guidance on Group Project

Presentations (Group Project)

Submission of a three-page summary

10-15 minutes per group (including Q&A)

Equal participation from all members

Theoretical and conceptual applications

No reading directly from notes

Inequality in World Trade

The Global North and South

Dependency Theory

South-South Cooperation

Quiz (In Class / One Hour)

Multiple choice & short answer questions

Practical Skills Workshop #1: Case Study Analysis

Identify and analyze the main policy problem

Explain the trade concepts and instruments used

Practical Skills Workshop #2: Writing a Policy Proposal

Identify a clear trade policy problem

Define the target audience and policy objective

Structure a short policy brief

Support recommendations with evidence and concepts

Course Wrap-Up

Career in International Affairs

Final Exam Review

Study Guide



<https://en.icp.fr/>

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Bibliography

Required Book

Poon, J., & Rigby, D. L. (2017). International trade: The basics. Routledge.

Recommended Books

Baylis, J., Smith, S., & Owens, P. (Eds.). (2026). The globalization of world politics: An introduction to international relations (10th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Cohn, T.H., & Hira, A. (2025). Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice (9th ed.). Routledge.

Other readings will be provided by the instructor before each class session.



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