International Economics

Code: 106193
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Contemporary History, Politics and Economics	OB	2

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the end of this document.

Prerequisites

Working knowledge of the material discussed in Principles of Economics I and II. The student must handle a general understanding of the current trends and tendency of the current global trade flows and international relations.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The main objectives of this course are:

- Learning about the structure and composition of current exchange flows and their historical evolution,

- Introducing analytical tools to be able to compute the proper indicators to interpret the political-economic implication of international exchange flows and, in general, the globalization process,

- Identifying the conditions of the internationalization process of firms and their production processes: value chains, outsourcing, offshoring,

- Recognizing and interpreting the exchange-rate policies of central banks and their impact on the intensity and direction of trade flows and trade relations,

- Acquiring knowledge about the international payment systems stemming from the different exchange-rate policies and their role in international financial crises since 1945.

Competences

- Distinguish between and analyse the type of relations that have been established over the last century among the different social, political and economic agents on national, regional and international frameworks.
- Identify the fundamental analytical principles in international economics, globalisation of market and processes of economic integration.
- Manage and apply data to solve problems.

- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Work cooperatively in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams implementing new projects.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse the balance, in terms of welfare, of different commercial policies.
2. Analyse the impact of a change in resources on international trade, and incorporate the relationship between growth and international trade.
3. Consider the impact of different commercial policies (fees, duties, subsidies, etc.) on international equilibrium.
4. Convey the diversity of products with imperfect competition and returns to scale.
5. Demonstrate capacity to adapt to changing environments.
6. Demonstrate initiative and the capacity to work autonomously when the situation requires.
7. Describe the international factor movement and analyse the corresponding markets.
8. Find trade patterns according to comparative advantages.
9. Identify classical and modern theories of international commerce and the associated empirical evidence.
10. Identify comparative advantages.
11. Identify the characteristics o the economic and monetary integration process in Europe and its causes and consequences.
12. Identify the characteristics of patterns of economic growth in Europe in the second half o the 20th century.
13. Identify the determining factors in direct foreign investments and international migration as well as their socio-economic impact in the country of origin and destination.
14. Identify the links that condition relations of international free trade and, in general, limit the globalisation process.
15. Interpret the economic facts of the contemporary world and the current situation of the global economy.
16. Lead multidisciplinary and multicultural teams, implement new projects, coordinate, negotiate and manage conflicts.
17. Make decisions in situations of uncertainty and show an enterprising and innovative spirit.
18. Organise work in relation to good time management and planning.
19. Recognise the causes of economic crises and their impact on different sectors of activity and national economies.
20. Recognise the determining principles in business internationalisation processes.
21. Relate theories and institutions to international trade regulation.
22. Understand the main indicators of competitivity in countries.
23. Understand the need for and effects of political and economic reforms carried out since the crisis of the Economic and Monetary Union and also those pending or currently in force.
24. Use of the available information technology and adaptation to new technological environments.
25. Work as part of a team and be able to argue own proposals and validate or refuse the arguments of others in a reasonable manner.

Content

The main topics discussed in this course are:

a) Evidence about the international trade flows: current and past data. Introduction to the different tools and indicators to identify trade patterns. The structure of the National Account. Identification, interpretation and economic consequences of the different trade patterns. The Globalization process.

b) The determinants of trade patterns: theory and evidence.

c) The rise of FTA or custums unions: theoretical background and political implications. Institutions (FMI, WTO).

d) International mobility of factors: MNE and FDI. Value Chains. Gender dimension, international division of labor and migration.

e) The market of currencies and the exchange rates: basic concepts, exchange rate types and regimes

d) The international financial markets: the possible interventions in the exchange-rate market. The evolution of the international monetary systemn (The Gold Standard Era 1870-1914,The Bretton Woods Era 1944-1971, The Dollar crisis, The EMU and the EURO 1971 on). Capital flows and debt crises (Mexican crises, 1994-1995, Asian crises 1997, Russian Crises, 1998, Brazilian crisis 1999, Turksish crises 2001, Argentian crises 2001-2002.....). Cryotocurrencies.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Recitations and tutorials	45	1.8	1, 2, 22, 23, 7, 10, 13, 14, 11, 12, 9, 15, 3, 20, 19, 21, 8, 4
Type: Supervised			
Follow-up activities	21	0.84	1, 22, 5, 6, 14, 15, 16, 18, 17, 20, 19, 21, 25, 24
Type: Autonomous			
Readings, assimilation of concepts, data and information treatment	80	3.2	1, 2, 22, 23, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 11, 12, 9, 15, 16, 18, 3, 17, 20, 19, 21, 25, 8, 24, 4

The teaching activities planned in this course will alternate:

- Recitation classes,

- Tutorials and seminars.

Students will be also required to carry out learning tasks (individually or in group) to produce reports or any other type of evidence (to be delivered) to assess the degree of assimilation of the different topics discussed in class.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final Exam	50%	1.5	0.06	23, 11, 19

Midterm exam	30%	1.5	0.06	1, 22, 7, 10, 13, 14, 12, 9, 15, 3, 20, 21, 4
Other activites (reports, presentations.....)	20%	1	0.04	1, 2, 22, 23, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 11, 12, 9, 15, 16, 18, 3, 17, 20, 19, 21, 25, 8, 24

Continous evaluation

The final learning assessment is the weighted average of the following activities:

- 50% Final exam covering the material of the course that the professor will communicate in class.

- 30% Midterm evaluation as the professor will explain in class,

- 20% Other activities (reports, presentations,..)

While carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (in Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades as well as the date the revision will take place.

The final minimum grade to pass the course is 5. The final grade is the weighted average of the scores of all the activities proposed during the course.

If the final overall grade is lower than 3.5, the student must repeat the course next year.

Students with a final grade between 3.5 and less than 5 may take a retake exam. The retake exam will be a synthetic evaluation for all the material discussed in the course. This retake assessment is scheduled by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. If a student passes the retake exam (with 5 as a minimum grade), she/he will pass the course.

Students will obtain a "Not assessed/Not submitted" course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items. Therefore, a student who performs at least 30% of the continuous assessment components can no longer be qualified with a "not evaluable"

As a part of the evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded,andthe date on which such a review will take place.

Single assessment

The request for a singleassessment implies to discard theoption to apply for the continuous evaluation option. Students can apply for the single evaluation through a form as established by the Faculty.

All part of the single assessment will be held on the same day as the final test of the continuous evaluation of this subject following of the calendar established by the Faculty.

The different parts of the single assessment and their weight in the final grade are:

- 30% written exam on parts a and b of this course program,

- 40% written exam on parts c, d and e of this course program,

- 20% Delivery of a research report and its presentation as the lecturer will inform to class.

The total (estimated) duration of the single assessment tests will be around five hours.

If a student undertakes any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will get zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will get a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Retake Exam

To be eligible for the retake exam, students must have previously been assessed in a set of activities that account for at least two-thirds of the total grade (CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT), or must have submitted all the scheduled assessments (SINGLE ASSESSMENT). With the approval of the degree coordination and the faculty, certain activities may be excluded from the retake process if, due to their nature, they are considered non-retakeable - provided they do not collectively exceed 50% of the final course grade and this has been clearly indicated in the Course Guide. The maximum grade that can be obtained in the retakeexam is 5.

To participate inthe retake exam, the course instructor may require students to have achieved a minimum average grade in the course. This required grade may not, under any circumstances, exceed 3.5.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for support tasks, such as search for references or other information, text correction, or translations. The student must clearly identify which parts have been generated using this technology, specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and the final outcome of the activity. If the student fails to disclose the use of AI in any of the acitivity subject to evaluation will be considered a lack of academic integrity with a partial or total penalization for the grade of the activity.

Bibliography

Basic textbooks:

Pugel, Th. (2023): "International Economics", McGraw-Hill, 18th Edition (available online via the UAB Library)

Krugman, P., Obsfeld, M. and Melitz M. (2022): " International Economics: theory and policy", 12th Edition,Pearson Global Edition (available online via the UAB Library)

Other references:

Beugelsdijk, S., Brackman, S., Garretsen, H., Van Marrewijk, Ch. and Murtunu, S. (2024): "International Economics and Business. Nations and Firms in the Global Economy", Cambridge University Press (paperbook available at the UAB Library)

Tugores-Ques, J. (2006): "Economía Internacional", 6a edición, McGraw-Hill (paperbook available at the UAB Library)

Feenstra, R. and Taylor. A. (2014): "International Trade", McGraw-Hill (paperbook available at the UAB Library)

Data Sources:

FMI (http://www.imf.org),

World Bank (http://www.worldbank.org),

European Union (http://www.europa.eu.int),

Euro (http://www.euro.eu.int),

World Trade Organization (http://www.wto.org),

OCDE (http://www.oecd.org),

ONU (http://www.un.org),

INE (http://www.ine.es/),

European Central Bank (http://www.ecb.int/home/html/index.en.html)

Other references will be suggested in class.

Software

Microsoft Excel (or similar)

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this link. To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	50	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	50	English	second semester	afternoon