

**University of Chicago**  
**Harris School of Public Policy Studies**  
**International Trade, Banking and Capital Markets Public Policy 35310**  
**Autumn 2024**  
**DRAFT August 29, 2024**

Lecturer: David H. Schabes

Prerequisites: Completion of Harris core Microeconomics sequence I & II or instructor's permission

Dates: September 30, 2024 – November 30, 2024. Final Exam: Week of December 2 XXX PM-XXX PM. Room 00XX

Time: MW 9:00 AM – 10:20 AM. Room: 0021

Office: 1307 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 3045

Office Hours: T 130 PM – 230 PM or by appointment

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Teaching Assistants: Teaching: Riya Chaturvedi [riyac@uchicago.edu](mailto:riyac@uchicago.edu)  
Grading: Nidhi Srivastava [nsrivastava1@uchicago.edu](mailto:nsrivastava1@uchicago.edu)

TA Sessions and Office Hours: TBA

**Course Description:**

Over the past 50 years, the markets for goods and services have become dramatically globalized. The internationalization of financial markets and the liberalization of trade have been critical to this growth. In contrast to a few decades ago, today's companies manage global supply chains and investment capital moves quickly from market to market. During the past few years, this trend has reversed, at first slowly and today more rapidly. The proximate causes include increasing political issues surrounding trade, substantial changes in the make-up and relative earnings in some portions of the workforce in many countries, and the Russian-Ukraine war.

International Trade, Banking and Capital Markets is an introduction to the drivers of and issues behind these changes. The course assumes completion of the core Microeconomics sequence I & II. Topics covered include: economic models presenting the gains from trade as well as recent as labor migration and its impact on relative wages and employment. We will then explore recent changes such as offshoring of various intermediate goods and tasks. The course will then cover aspects of international capital markets, focusing on floating and fixed foreign exchange regimes. The growth of international banking out of trade finance and the international expansion of domestic businesses will be presented along with the issues these developments created. Finally, the impact of the growth and deregulation of international financial markets on developed and developing countries will be discussed.

## Classroom Protocol

Students should expect to attend all lectures and several TA sessions over the quarter. Attendance will be taken and considered part of the course participation grade. Much of the material required to successfully complete the problem sets and final exam will be presented orally in class. The course will be difficult to complete successfully without the ability to make this commitment. Assigned readings should be completed prior to the lecture.

## Course Goals:

This course addresses the following questions:

1. What is globalization?
2. Why was it viewed as so successful for 50 years?
3. Why is it now viewed as flawed?
4. How will international trade and migration change in coming years?
5. How are currencies bought and sold?
6. How do central banks manage their exchange rates?
7. Why does investment capital flow across borders?
8. What are the implications of government actions for international capital markets?

The course consists of two parts:

1. International Trade: We will discuss the major theories underlying international trade policy, immigration and offshoring. These include the Ricardian and Heckscher-Ohlin regarding goods trade. We will then look at application of these and newer theories to international migration and offshoring.
2. International Capital Markets: We will discuss the market and quoting of foreign currencies and various arbitrage opportunities that keep prices in line, for example covered interest rate parity. Long- and medium-term models of currency value will be presented. Finally, the trade-offs between fixed and floating currency rate regimes will be discussed and some applications to recent exchange rate crises will be presented.

## Academic Integrity:

All University of Chicago students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Among other things, this means that students shall not represent another's work as their own, use un-allowed materials during exams, or otherwise gain unfair academic advantage. All students suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Harris Dean of Students for investigation and adjudication. The disciplinary process can result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion from the University. **In addition to disciplinary sanctions, I will impose a penalty of a grade of 0 on the exam or problem set in question and the student cannot earn higher than a B- in the course for students who have committed academic dishonesty.** The Harris policy and procedures related to academic integrity can be found at <https://harris.uchicago.edu/gateways/current-students/policies>. The University of Chicago

Policy on Academic Honesty & Plagiarism can be found at <https://studentmanual.uchicago.edu/academic-policies/academic-honesty-plagiarism/>

### **Grading:**

There will be eight graded problem sets due approximately once a week. Problem sets must be completed by each student individually, though you may discuss the problems with your fellow students in the course. **You may not consult online sources of homework answers such as CourseHero, or obtain answers from students who have previously taken the course. Assignments must be submitted on Gradescope.**

Grading will be based on the following:

1. Final Exam 35%
2. Problem Sets 60%
3. Course Participation 5%

**Problem sets must be submitted by 11:59PM on the date due. Late assignments will be subject to penalties as follows:**

- **One hour late: 5%**
- **One day late 25%**
- **Prior to release of assignment answer sheet (usually three or four days) 50%**
- **There will not be any exceptions made for assignment due dates.**

**The final exam, given during finals week, will be comprehensive and have a 2 hour time limit. Only exceptions approved by the Dean of Students will be accepted for not taking the final exam at the scheduled time.**

**Students may take the course Pass/Fail subject to Harris School policy. A cumulative average of 60% is required for a Pass grade.**

### **Finance and Policy Certificate:**

This course is one of the available electives to fulfill the requirements of the Finance and Policy Certificate.

### **Text and Other Readings:**

**Feenstra, Robert C and Taylor, Alan M. *International Economics Fifth Edition*. New York: Worth Publishers, 2017.**

***Financial Times* and other press and academic articles available from the UChicago Library (*Financial Times* via ProQuest).**

**Radelet and Sachs. "The Onset of the East Asian Financial Crisis."**

**Readings listed below should be completed prior to the related lecture topic.**

Weekly Schedule:

Readings should be completed prior to each lecture.

| Date/Readings  | Lecture Topics and Assignments   |
|--|--|
| September 30<br>International Economics, Chapter 1<br><a href="#">China's Plan to Sell Cheap EVs</a>                     | <i>Introduction to International Trade</i>                               |
| October 2<br>International Economics, Chapter 2<br><a href="#">The new commodity superpowers</a>                         | <i>The Ricardian Model</i>   |
| October 7<br>International Economics, Chapter 3  | <i>The Specific-factors Model</i>  |
| October 9<br>International Economics, Chapter 4<br><i>Problem Set 1 Due: International Trade and the Ricardian Model</i> | <i>Heckscher-Ohlin Model I</i>   |
| October 14<br><i>Problem Set 2 Due: Specific Factors Model</i>   | <i>Heckscher-Ohlin Model II</i>  |
| October 16<br>International Economics, Chapter 5   | <i>Movement of Labor and Capital Between Countries I</i>                 |
| October 21<br><i>Problem Set 3 Due: Heckscher-Ohlin</i>  | <i>Movement of Labor and Capital Between Countries II</i>                |
| October 23<br>International Economics, Chapter 6   | <i>Economies of Scale and Monopolistic Competition<br/>Gravity Model</i> |
| October 28<br>International Economics, Chapter 7<br><i>Problem Set 4 Due: Movement of Labor and Capital</i>              | <i>Offshoring of Goods and Services I</i>                                |
| October 30<br><a href="#">The True Cost of a \$12 T-Shirt</a>  | <i>Offshoring of Goods and Services II</i>                               |

| Date/Readings  | Lecture Topics and Assignments  |
|--|---|
| <p>November 4</p> <p>International Economics, Chapter 8</p>  | <p><i>Import Tariffs and Quota under Perfect Competition</i></p>              |
| <p>November 6</p> <p>International Economics, Chapter 13</p>   | <p><i>Introduction to Foreign Exchange</i></p>                                |
| <p>November 11</p> <p>International Economics, Chapter 14</p>  | <p><i>Exchange Rates I: Monetary Approach in the Long Run, Part I</i></p>     |
| <p>November 13</p> <p><i>Problem Set 6 Due: Introduction to Foreign Exchange</i></p>   | <p><i>Exchange Rates I: Monetary Approach in the Long Run, Part II</i></p>    |
| <p>November 18</p> <p>International Economics, Chapter 15</p> <p><a href="#">Renminbi Devaluation Risk</a></p>                 | <p><i>Exchange Rates II: The Asset Approach in the Short Run, Part I</i></p>  |
| <p>November 20</p>   | <p><i>Exchange Rates II: The Asset Approach in the Short Run, Part II</i></p> |
| <p>December 2</p> <p>International Economics, Chapter 20-1 and 2.</p> <p><i>Problem Set 7 Due: Exchange Rates I and II</i></p> | <p><i>Exchange Rate Pegs and International Capital Markets I</i></p>          |
| <p>December 4</p> <p>Radelet and Sachs, Sections I through IV.</p>   | <p><i>Exchange Rate Pegs and International Capital Markets II</i></p>         |
| <p>Week of December 9</p>  | <p><i>Final Exam: TBD</i></p>   |