



## **MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY**

Division of Economic and Financial Studies

UNIT OUTLINE

### **ECON847: INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

**Evening Stream**

August 2007

# ECON 847: INTERNATIONAL TRADE

## ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit examines international trade both in theory and practice. It first reviews the theories related to inter and intra industry trade determination and the empirical evidence supporting them. It then examines trade policies, covering a wide range of topics, illustrated by up-to-date case studies.

The unit has a policy approach and aims at also providing students with a good understanding of major trade issues around the world and the effects of globalisation on trade. It focuses on current applications of theoretical principles.

ECON847, a Department of Economics offering, is also a core unit in the Master of International Business (MIB) programme

**Credit points: 4**

## LECTURER

**Marc Lombard**, Lecturer-in-charge  
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**Consultation times** will be announced at the beginning of the course.

## LECTURE TIME AND LOCATION:

**Mondays, 6-9pm, in W6B-325**

## UNIT WEB PAGE

<http://online.mq.edu.au/pub/ECON847/>

## ASSESSMENT

The assessment will consist of:

- **A final examination** (2 hours), covering the whole course, worth 70% of the marks
- **Class tests** worth 30% of the marks.  
Dates of class tests will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

Assessment will be based on both the material discussed in the lectures and the prescribed readings.

Absence from class tests will result in a mark of zero, unless absence is supported by acceptable documented evidence. In this case, the final exam mark will be

converted to a higher percentage of the total marks.

**NOTE:**

- 1) It is the policy of the Economics Department that **students must pass the final examination in order to successfully complete a unit**
- 2) It is essential that students attend all sessions, as the examination/tests will include material discussed in the lectures.
- 3) It is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individual or group of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching semester, that is the final day of the official examination period.

**RECOMMENDED TEXT and REFERENCES:**

**Prescribed text:**

Gerber, James (2008), *International Economics*, 4th ed, Pearson Addison-Wesley

**Prescribed journal articles:** see the reading guide below.

In addition, a number of prescribed, up-to-date journal articles will be announced during lecture time and be made available in e-Reserve

**References**

- Carbaugh, R. (2005), *International Economics*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed., Thomson
- Yarbrough, B. and Yarbrough, R. (2006), *The World Economy*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., Thomson
- Sawyer, W. and Sprinkle, R. (2006), *International Economics*, Pearson
- Pugel, T. (2004), *International Economics*, 12<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw-Hill
- Van den Berg, H. (2004), *International Economics*, McGraw-Hill
- Krugman, P. and Obstfeld, M. (2005), *International Economics*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., Addison Wesley
- Husted, S. and Melvin, J. (2004), *International Economics*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Pearson Addison Wesley
- Salvatore, D. (2005), *Introduction to International Economics*, Wiley
- Van Marrewijk, C. (2002), *International Trade and the World Economy*, Oxford

Articles on aspects of international trade appear in a wide variety of economic journals, available in the Library. Among them:

- Review of International Trade and Development

- The World Economy

Up-to-date articles on trade issues can also be found in the weekly "The Economist".

### **Useful websites:**

- A daily survey of trade articles published in English worldwide can be found at <http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/Business/Trade>
- World Trade Organisation, [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)
- World Bank, [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), [www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org)
- The National Bureau of Economic Research: International Trade and Finance, [www.nberws.nber.org](http://www.nberws.nber.org)
- The International Trade Centre, a partnership between the UNCTAD and the WTO, [www.intracen.org](http://www.intracen.org)
- International Monetary Fund, [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)
- The United Nations Development Program, [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)
- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)
- The Economist, [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the completion of this unit, students should be conversant with major trade theories and with the current major issues concerning world trade. They should be made more aware of the world at large, the importance and the role of key players in the globalisation process, and the impact trade issues have on all countries.

This unit also encourages critical analysis, by comparing conflicting policies and examining motives behind trade disputes.

### **UNIT STRUCTURE and READING GUIDE**

Essential reading is indicated by an asterisk \*

In addition, a number of prescribed, up-to-date journal articles will be announced during lecture time and be made available in e-Reserve. Articles listed below are available in e-Reserve

**IMPORTANT NOTE: The following references are only a complement to lecture notes, they are NOT a substitute.**

For all tests/examination purposes, the required reading (text and papers) is in addition to notes provided in the lectures.

#### **Topic 1: The Global Economy**

\* Gerber, chapter 1 (pp. 2-10), ch. 2 (pp. 17-22, 29-34), ch. 4 (pp.79-80).

\* Soros, G., "Globalisation-lopsided generator of wealth", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 02-02-'04

\* Kuttner, R. "Rethinking Free Trade", *The Boston Globe*, 29-09-04

\* "Trade Disputes", *The Economist*, 18-09-04

**Topic 2: The Gains from Trade**

\* Gerber, ch. 3 (pp.38-42, 44-56)

**Topic 3: Sources of Comparative Advantage**

\* Gerber, ch. 4 (pp. 60-68, 72-78, 82-84), ch.5 (pp. 90-100)

**Topic 4: Trade Restrictions (1): Tariffs**

\* Gerber, ch. 6 (pp.116--126)

**Topic 5: Trade Restrictions (2): Non-Tariff Barriers**

\* Lombard (2004), "Trade Barriers: The Contemporary Situation", *EcoDate*, Vol.18, No.1, March

\* Gerber, ch. 6 (pp. 128-33), ch. 7 (pp. 148-150), ch.2 (pp.42-43)

**Topic 6: Political Economy of Trade**

\* Gerber, ch.5 (100-108), ch. 7 (pp. 136-48, 151-52), ch. 8, and ch.2 (pp.55-56)

\* "Imitating property is Theft", *The Economist*, 17-5-2003

\* "The WTO Under Fire", *The Economist*, 29-9-2003

**Topic 7: Trade Blocs**

\* Gerber, ch. 1 (pp. 23-26), ch.4 (pp.70-72), ch.13 (pp.302-305, 315-28), ch. 14 (pp.332-337, 352-60)

**Topic 8: Trade and Development**

\* Gerber, ch.15 (pp. 364-373, 383-91), ch.16 (pp. 394-402, 407-13, 416-20), ch. 17

**Topic 9: International Factor Movements**

\* Lombard (2003), "Immigration: An Economic Perspective", *The EBE Journal*, Vol.39, No.1,

\* Gerber, ch.2 (80-82), ch. 13 (pp.320-22), ch.14 (pp.358-60) ch. 9 (184-188), ch.12 (pp.277-78, 284-86)

**Topic 10: International Trade and Exchange Rate Movements**

\* Gerber, ch.9 (pp.178-81, 196-202), ch.10 (pp.209-211, 235-41)

**NOTE:** The numbering of topics above **is not related** to the number of lecture weeks. Some topics are shorter/longer than others.

**PLAGIARISM**

The University defines plagiarism in its rules: "Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one's own". Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University's rules and carries significant penalties. You must read the University's practices and procedures on plagiarism. These can be found on the web at:

<http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/>. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in a unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

### **UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GRADING**

Academic Senate has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG). On occasion, your raw mark for a unit (i.e., the total of your marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive. Under the Senate guidelines, results may be scaled to ensure that there is a degree of comparability across the university, so that units with the same past performances of their students should achieve similar results. The process of scaling does not change the order of marks among students. A student who receives a higher raw mark than another will also receive a higher final scaled mark.