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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:15 – 3:15 pm in ICC 552, or by appointment (to make an appointment outside office hours, please send me an email beforehand)

Lectures: Tuesdays 8:50-11:30 am in ICC 550

Course Description
Econ 652 – Topics in International Trade is a PhD-level class. The course is designed primarily for students planning to write dissertations on a topic related to international trade or international migration. In order to take this class, you must have taken Econ 651 (International Trade) and Econ 613 (Econometrics) or you need the instructor's permission.

The main focus of this course will be on empirical trade and migration papers and on the political-economy literature of trade and migration policies. This course will cover selected topics of international trade and international migration, including: empirical evidence on trade patterns, volumes and composition; the impact of trade on growth and productivity; political economy models of international trade; international political economy and the world trading system; the impact of international migration on destination countries; political economy models of international migration.

Books
The following books contain background and supplemental material that may be useful. Some of them also contain specific readings under each topic.


**Requirements**

- **Email before each class**: On the evening before each class (Monday evening), you should send me an email with some comments on the paper(s) that will be covered in detail during the class, denoted by *. (Please write Econ 652 on the subject of the email.) The email can be short and should briefly address the following points:
  - Why is the paper important (or why not)?
  - A short description of the main features of the paper
  - What you liked – or did not like – about the paper
  - What parts of the paper were not clear or need further explanation

- **Final paper**: Each student is required to write a double spaced (no-more-than) 25-pages empirical trade/migration paper on a topic of your choice among those covered in the class. The paper will include the following sections: Introduction, Literature Survey, Data Section, Empirical Results and Conclusions. More details about the paper will be provided throughout the semester.

- **Presentations**: Each student is required to present twice during the semester. Each presentation will last approximately 30 minutes and will focus on one of the articles denoted ** in the reading list. Presentations will take place throughout the semester and are meant to help you develop both a critical eye – each presentation will include a summary and a critical assessment of the paper – and presentation skills.

  Each presentation will be accompanied by a referee report on the article presented. The referee report should be approximately 3-4 pages double spaced. Each referee report will include both a summary and a critical assessment of the paper. In particular, the first paragraph(s) should summarize the paper for the editor and describe its main results. Next, the report should discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the paper – contrasting it to other papers in the literature as necessary. You should describe how the authors could address the weaknesses (if possible) and give your recommendations for changes that would improve the paper. Finally, you should comment on the contributions of the paper to the existing literature (you may refer to papers that were published subsequently).

Note: Attendance of trade/migration seminars at the International Economics Workshop is strongly encouraged. You should read the papers before the seminar takes place.

**Grading and deadlines**

The final grade will be a weighted average of your presentations (30%), final paper (40%), emails (20%) and class participation (10%). You may skip 1 email during the semester without affecting this part of your grade. The referee reports are due on the day of the presentation. The final paper is due on Monday, May 4.

**Some data and Information Sources on Trade, Trade Policies, Migration and Migration Policies**

World Bank's World Development Indicators (import and export duties, trade volumes, other cross-national data).
Jon Haveman's International Trade Data

Jon Haveman's Industry Concordances

UNCTAD Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAiNS)

The Global Trade Negotiations Home Page

WTO trade policy reviews

Reports Issued by the Office of the United States Trade Representative and Related Entities, 2006

US Census Bureau Foreign Trade Statistics

Detailed US and Canada imports by source (6-digit HS) from Industry Canada

World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS)

U.S. Antidumping Database

World Bank Trade and Production Database

Classification of SITC Rev. 2 commodities into organized exchange, reference priced, and differentiated

SourceOECD International Migration Statistics

US Census data (where you can find information at the individual level on immigrants and natives) through IPUMS

US CPS data (where you can find information at the individual level on immigrants – from 1994 – and natives) through IPUMS

COURSE OUTLINE (all readings in the course outline are required)

January 13  Introductions and some review of econometrics concepts and tools


January 20  No Class: Inauguration

Trade patterns, volume and composition

January 27  An Overview


February 3    Tests of the Ricardian theory and of the HOV theory


February 10    Empirical Evidence on Intra-industry Trade (Gravity Equation)


February 17    Effects of trade costs on the composition and volume of trade


Political economy of trade policy

February 24  Political economy models of trade policy: Theory


Feenstra, Ch. 9


March 3  Empirical evidence on the political economy of trade policy


March 17  Empirical evidence on the political economy of trade policy (cont.)


March 24  The Economics of the World Trading System

Bagwell, K. and R.W. Staiger, 2000. “GATT-Think,” Department of Economics WP, University of Wisconsin-Madison (this paper covers material in the following chapters of Bagwell and Staiger's book: Chapters 1 (Introduction), 2 (The Theory of Trade Agreements), 3 (History and Design of GATT and WTO), Chapters 4 (Reciprocity), 5 (MFN), 6 (Enforcement))


**March 31** Exceptions to the MFN clause: Preferential Trade Agreements


Feenstra, Ch. 6

Bagwell and Staiger, Chapter 7.

**International Migration**

**April 7** International Migration


April 14 Political economy of migration policy


Trade, productivity and growth

April 21, (April 28) Trade, growth and productivity


Feenstra, Ch. 10

