International Trade - Economics 240A

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Overview of the course

This is the first module in the graduate trade sequence. We will cover the “basics” of international trade theory. I will do my best to cover both the classic models, along with the new classics, especially as they relate to the theory of the firm. Your goals should be two fold. First, learn the classic models and why they are classic. Second, learn to be creative with these models. This is probably more important. They are classic because they are insightful, and that they are adaptable as our knowledge of the world economy progresses.

Grading and Expectations

The grading breakdown by percentage will be as follows:

- Participation - 10
- Homework - 30
- Exam 1 - 30
- Exam 2 - 30

Homeworks will be assigned during and/or after core parts of the reading list, and are listed on the course schedule. Exam 1 will be in-class during normally scheduled hours, and Exam 2 will be during the final exam period. Both will be based on the core readings from class. Finally, I expect everybody to attend class and contribute during discussions. Ask questions whenever you have them. Make comments whenever you have them. If I’m wrong, bring it up. Also, I will ask questions, sometimes to specific students (hopefully at random), and expect answers that leave no doubt that you’ve attempted the reading.

Office hours and Final Thoughts

Office hours are 3:15PM-5:15PM on Wednesdays. My office is 459 Engineering 2.

Finally, relax and enjoy the class. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for the course, do not hesitate to bring them up. This course is for you to learn more than it is for me to teach. If it is not working for you, let me know, and I’ll make every effort to make things better.