

Case Studies in International Economics

Module 073013

Winter Term 2021/22

Course description

By enrolling in this course, participants will apply international trade theory in form of case studies that address specific trade issues. The focus will be on core trade theories, such as the Heckscher-Ohlin or the standard trade models. We will also cover foreign direct investment (FDI) theory. Apart from deepening their knowledge about trade and investment theories, participants will learn how to write a seminar (term) paper, how to search for literature, structure a paper, citation rules, references, etc.

Enrolment

Enrolment is open to Bachelor students only. Due to the seminar character of the course, enrolment will be limited. To sign up for this course, students have to show up on the first day of the seminar, that is, Wednesday, 13 October 2021, 2-4 pm, GD 02/236. There will be no pre-enrolment. Five (ECTS) credit points can be obtained for the successful completion of the module.

Prerequisites

Students should have a basic knowledge of international trade theory upon entering this course. For example, they should have taken the course *Foundations of International Trade* (or similar) in a previous semester. Alternatively, participants are expected to enrol in this course, which will be offered this winter semester.

Class times

Wednesday, 13 October 2021, 2-4 pm, GD 02/236 (Introductory session and enrolment)
Friday, 22 October 2021, 12-4 pm, GD 03/218 (Tutorial on scientific methods)
Friday, 29 October 2021, 12-4 pm, GD 03/218 (Tutorial on scientific methods)
Friday, 14 January 2022, 12-6 pm, GD 03/218 (Presentation of papers)
Saturday, 15 January 2022, 10 am - 6 pm, GD 03/158 (Presentation of papers)

Attendance

Like all our seminars before the pandemic started, all sessions will take place face-to-face, that is, in person without recording. Attendance will be based on the so-called "3G" rule, that is, you have to be vaccinated, recovered or tested. In line with the university's regulations, we will have to check that in every session before entering the seminar room. All students have to attend all sessions of this course!

Topics covered

1. Distributional Effects of Trade Liberalization in a Country: Theory and Evidence
2. The Impact of Core Labour Standards on International Trade
3. Regionalism versus Multilateralism in International Trade
4. The Trade Conflict Between China and the United States
5. The Determinants of Foreign Direct Investment

Term paper

Students have to write their term paper in a group of two students. The term paper should have a length of 11-13 pages (including tables and figures), 2.5 cm margins top/bottom/left/right, 1.5 line spacing, and should be written in Times New Roman 12 point font. Papers are due on Friday, 7 January 2022, at 9 am. Please submit the paper electronically via e-mail to the teaching assistant in charge (one pdf file).

Grading

The term paper and the presentation each make up 50% of the final grade, respectively. For active class participation, you may obtain bonus points to improve your grade. If a group is not presenting their paper, they are expected to act as a discussant to another paper/presentation (same topic).

Language

The language of instruction is English. That applies to term papers, presentations as well as class discussions.

Teaching assistant

Jan Wüstenfeld is the contact person for all inquiries (room GD 03/319, e-mail: jan.wuestenfeld@rub.de, office hours by appointment only).

Literature

We will post selected literature for each topic in Moodle after the introductory session.

Moodle

The password for accessing Moodle will be handed out in the introductory session. Alternatively, please contact the FSI Student Council (Fachschaftsinitiative) to obtain the password for this course: <https://www.fsi-wiwi.de/tools/passwortverteiler/>.