

Case Studies in International Economics (073 013)

Winter Term 2022/23

Course description

By enrolling in this course, participants will apply international trade theory through case studies that address specific trade issues. The focus will be on core trade theories, such as the Heckscher-Ohlin or Specific-Factors trade models. Apart from deepening their knowledge about trade theories, participants will learn how to write a seminar (term) paper, that is, search for literature, structure a paper, observe citation rules, include adequate references, etc.

Enrolment

Enrolment is open to bachelor students only. Due to the seminar character of the course, enrolment will be limited. To apply for this course, students must provide some information on an application sheet (provided in the Moodle course and on our website) and send that sheet to the teaching assistant in charge, Johanna Meier, during the application period 4-10 October 2022 (not before and not afterwards). We will notify all applying students whether they have been accepted by 11 October 2022. Those admitted are expected to attend the seminar's first session, Wednesday, 12 October 2022, 2-4 pm, GD 02/236. Five credit points (ECTS) can be obtained for the successful completion of the module.

Prerequisites

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

Class Times

Wednesday, 12 October 2022, 2-4 pm, GD 02/236 (Introductory session)
Friday, 21 October 2022, 12-4 pm, GD 03/218 (Tutorial on scientific methods)
Friday, 28 October 2022, 12-4 pm, GD 03/218 (Tutorial on scientific methods)
Friday, 13 January 2023, 12-6 pm, GD 03/218 (Presentation of papers)
Saturday, 14 January 2023, 10 am - 6 pm, GD 03/218 (Presentation of papers)

Scientific Methods

To assist students in writing their term papers, we will provide two sessions on scientific methods. The sessions will cover relevant information on how to search for literature, structure, write and present a seminar paper.

Attendance

All sessions will take place face-to-face without recording. All students must attend all sessions of this course, including the sessions on scientific methods!

Topics Covered

- (1) Environmental Regulations and International Trade
- (2) Environmental Regulations and Foreign Direct Investment
- (3) The Impact of Core Labor Standards on International Trade
- (4) Distributional Effects of Trade Liberalization in a Country: Theory and Evidence for Developing Countries
- (5) The Trade Conflict Between China and the United States

Term Paper

Students have to write their term papers 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, 6 January 2023, 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 count 50 per cent towards the final grade. Students may improve their grades with active class participation (up to 10 bonus points). Students that do not present their paper are expected to act as a discussant on another paper/presentation (same topic). Students working in a group of two will receive a joint grade for their paper but individual grades for presentation and participation.

Language

The language of instruction is English, which applies to term papers, presentations, and class discussions.

Teaching Assistant

Johanna Meier is the teaching assistant in charge and the contact person for all inquiries (room GD 03/319, e-mail: johanna.meier@rub.de, office hours by appointment only). Please note that Johanna Meier is out of the office before 4 October 2022, and she will start responding to your e-mails upon her return.

Literature

After the introductory session, we will post selected literature for each topic in Moodle.

Moodle

The password for accessing Moodle can be obtained either in the introductory session or via the FSI Student Council (Fachschaftsinitiative) password distribution online list ("Passwortverteiler"): <https://www.fsi-wiwi.de/tools/passwortverteiler/>.