

## INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE THEORY

SUMMER 2008

SPRING 2009

Econ 181.10

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1) Difficulty of the subject matter [1] = very easy - [5] = very difficult	3.80	3.62
2) Amount you learned in the course [1] = almost nothing - [5] = a great deal	4.60	3.87
3) The overall rating of the instruction was [1] = not at all effective - [5] = very effective	3.80	3.96
4) The overall quality of the course was [1] = poor - [5] = excellent	4.00	3.83
5) Overall, how would you rate the level of intellectual challenge in the course? [1] = not at all challenged - [5] = very challenged	4.40	4.00
6) Overall how would you rate your overall engagement in the subject matter? [1] = not at all engaged - [5] = very engaged	3.80	3.57
7) The course objectives were clear [1] = not at all clear- [5] = very clear	4.60	4.15
8) Course objectives were achieved [1] = not at all - [5] = completely	4.20	4.24
9) Level of class participation or discussion was appropriate to the size and objectives of the course [1] = not at all - [5] = completely	3.80	2.90
10) Course content was organized in a manner that facilitated learning [1] = not at all - [5] = completely	4.60	3.79
11) Amount of effort or work required was [1] = very little - [5] = a great deal	4.40	3.90
12) Effectiveness of assignments in reinforcing or solidifying learning [1] = not at all - [5] = very effective	5.00	4.33
13) Effectiveness of exams in reinforcing or solidifying learning [1] = not at all - [5] = very effective	4.40	3.86
14) Gained factual knowledge [1] = not at all - [5] = a great deal	4.00	3.95
15) Enhanced Quantitative and Analytical Skills [1] = not at all - [5] = a great deal	4.20	3.50
16) Increased conceptual understanding and/or critical thinking [1] = not at all - [5] = a great deal	4.00	3.65
17) Demonstrated concern whether students were learning [1] = not at all concerned - [5] = very concerned	4.40	4.14
18) Clarity of lectures [1] = not at all clear - [5] = very clear	4.40	4.05
19) Was knowledgeable about the subject and course material [1] = not at all knowledgeable - [5] = very knowledgeable	4.80	4.27
20) Enthusiasm for topic/subject [1] = not at all enthusiastic - [5] = very enthusiastic	4.20	4.36
21) Accessibility outside of class [1] = not at all accessible - [5] = very accessible	4.50	4.65
22) Designed and used fair grading procedures [1] = not at all fair - [5] = very fair	4.80	4.24
23) Provided adequate feedback on exams, papers or performance [1] = not at all fair - [5] = very fair	4.80	3.84
24) Instructor's use of technology in the classroom contributed to learning [1] = not at all fair - [5] = a great deal	4.80	4.40

## STUDENT COMMENTS: Econ 181.10 International Trade Theory

- The course was taught well and I appreciated that the slides were put online. That made it a lot easier to study.
- The instructor was really receptive to questions which I appreciated.
- Posting the in-class slides on Blackboard helped a great deal in learning, because I could go back at any point in time and have a decent explanation of concepts.
- Prof. Akin does a good job. She presents the information in a digestible way and makes the material interesting enough.
- International trade was overall a really interesting class because many other econ classes in order to simplify the theories, take the rest of the world out of picture. It was nice to finally see how everything interacts. I think the most interesting part of the class was learning about specialization, comparative advantage and the returns to different inputs. Combining those theories it was really easy to see why trade phenomena in the world occur.
- The problem sets are good practice.
- I found the problem sets to be excellent practice for the exams and for better understanding of the material. While some of the questions were repetitive, it certainly helped solidify the concepts learned in class. As for the textbook, I have not read much of it. As for the times I do use it, the material is easy to read/follow and has numerous diagrams to help the reader understand. Overall the assignments and readings in class were very useful in understanding the subject matter.
- Readings helpful, problem sets excellent for exam studying.
- Enjoyed course material, presented well, very clear.
- The course was very organized and easy to follow. Professor Akin was more than happy to stop class to answer any questions or further discuss any topic. She was readily available outside of the classroom for extra help and was very helpful in any of those sessions.
- She really stressed a conceptual understanding of the material, and I find that very important in modern education. While the important facts had to be retained, she stressed the importance of understanding the concepts and why things happen the way they do. It was very analytical and logical thinking.
- Excellent instructor, very helpful, genuinely interested in students' learning. Easy to contact outside of class.
- I thought this professor did a very good job teaching this course. She was able to tie in real life examples about international trade from Turkey and other countries, which made the course more interesting and applicable to real life.
- I thought Professor Akin did a wonderful job in conveying her knowledge of the subject matter onto us. She is a very intelligent professor as is evidenced by her lectures. Economics can be a boring subject but her enthusiasm for the material just helps make it more interesting to learn. She made sure to cover many case studies in which she applied the material we learned into real world situations. A lot of times, her case studies were very interesting and pertained to modern world. These case studies helped clarify any confusions we may have had.

- Her powerpoints were very well organized and she posted all of them on the blackboard for use outside of the classroom. She was able to manipulate the diagrams very well to demonstrate different points.
- I thought this was a very interesting course and I learned a lot about the world's trading system. It was extremely informative and even changed my opinion on certain policies/economic actions. I thought Professor Akin added some valuable insight and opinions to the subject matter and the fact that she is not American helped bring in a foreigner's perspective on many of the issues Americans do not encounter enough outside perspectives, some of which can be valuable.
- Great professor, lots of enthusiasm. I wish I could have gotten to know the professor better, as international economics focusing on trade myself. Excellent class, full of information.
- Learned a lot. Akin made a difficult subject straightforward and easy to understand.
- My favorite thing about this class is the organization of the course: Lecture than problem set. It really helps keep up with the class.
- Professor Akin, I wanted to say thank you for being such a great professor. I really appreciate how diligently you work to properly explain concepts to us that are so complex. I've really enjoyed my time being a student in your two classes.
- The most interesting thing I learned in class had to do with the infant industry argument. I know coming in that domestic protectionism by developing nations was used and not always helpful. I also know that the Asian tiger countries used subsidies and things opposed to quotas and were more successful. The most interesting part of this class was learning the intricacies of how this situation worked. Examples of how quotas and tariffs were used unsuccessfully combined with the graphs and theory as to why it did not work was very effective in helping me understand the differences.
- The most interesting thing that I learned in the class were the topics that focused on active policies in world market. I was very intrigued to learn about the real world applications of how export subsidies, production subsidies, quotas and tariffs are implemented as a result affect world trade. The most interesting thing about this topic was how varying trade agreements further complicated the allocation of policies and how trade agreements can be used as a mechanism to combat world prices and affect market environment. This class has overall been one of the most interesting classes as far as topic material covered that I have taken at GWU. I have always been fascinated by international trade theory and I feel that I have learned information that will be useful for my future, which is something that I can not say for most of my courses. Thank you for always being understanding and available for office hours, it made a big difference and was greatly appreciated.
- Dr. Akin, first of all, thanks for all your effort this semester in making 181 very interesting class. I am not an economics major but every econ class I take makes me wish I was, yours included.
- In all honesty, I did not know what to expect when I first signed up for this course. However this class has really surpassed all my expectations. I would like to know that now, after your course, I have a great interest in free trade, and the WTO, and will continue my education in those topics. I have found almost all of the topics very interesting during this course. But if I had to choose one, I would say that I found the topic of international integration and export subsidies to be the most interesting. I was always interested in how larger economies influence the world and how smaller countries must adapt to what they were given, but explanations of this topic in class opened my eyes to a whole new side of international relations that I had not seen before. Before I thought it was all just formality and the actions of one country could not have a dire effect on another, but I was wrong. The topic really inspired me, and I am now looking for internships with organizations that deal with international trade, and developing country protection. I want to thank you for an excellent course, and for teaching me so much. It was really amazing !!

- The most fascinating thing about international trade is that its purpose is not about just self-enriching. One could say that we could only obtain his best achieving or producing what we are best at, but in the end it is also about using that strength and combining those of others to complete everyone's needs and other necessities in the world like economic development. It is incredible how international trade has become so "international" – meaning outsourcing, FDI, etc. have become such important parts of the functioning of international economy.
- The semester was very interesting for me. I had never taken an international economics course but I always knew that it was where my interests were. The issues that dictate relations and actions between countries are fascinating. Reasons for specific trade patterns, welfare gains and losses to society and the world are very intriguing topics. The problems in our economy right now can be reflected in some of the case studies we went over during our lectures and it was very helpful to have a reference point to understand the current affairs. I would definitely recommend this class as it is taught at a pace at which you can take away a lot of information and feel fulfilled.
- The favorite topic that we have covered in this course is probably about economic integration. I had always heard the terms NAFTA and the European Union, but I never was able to understand what exactly entailed and how they were different. Also learning about the World Trade Organization and what its purpose is was very interesting also. That was another term that I had heard in the news and read in newspapers but did not really understand what it meant or what its function was. Overall this class was very informative and I am sure it will help me as I further my career as an Economics major and as I look for a full time position in the future.
- It is hard to choose my favorite experience in your class over the past semester. I really enjoyed all of it. yOu always provide all the information for your class on Blackboard so it would be possible to miss your class, but I have learned that it is a lot more helpful if you attend because we get to hear you speak so knowledgeably on a subject that obviously excites you. Watching you teach puts a smile on my face, and the jokes you make about economic terms, and relating what we are learning to things on discovery channel make the class! Ultimately this class really just solidified my decision of becoming an international economics major. Last night I found that I was hired as an economic researcher on renewables for the AmCham in Amman Jordan and have never been so excited in my life. This is mainly thanks to your class. I do not think I would have been so interested in anything econ if it wasn't for you. Thank you !! My favourite topic in your class as most definitely protectionist policies. Tariff wars led to a lot of out of class research. Also multinational companies and infant industries, and economic integration. Basically the second half of the semester ! Keep up the good work ! Hope to take you in the future.
- I thought the most interesting topic of the course was the topic of trade integration. I enjoyed learning about the topic because it is so politically important. One often hears of American workers against free trade agreements such as NAFTA, which take American jobs. The issue of outsourcing is very important. Especially institutions like the E.U. become increasingly powerful, it is extremely important to understand the reality and importance of free trade agreements and economic unions. I also found the topic of quotas, subsidies and tariffs very interesting. It was fascinating to see the actual losses incurred, deadweight loss, and gains taken from, producer surpluses and government revenues, tariffs, quotas and subsidies calculated out. I found the historical background on these topics very illuminating.
- The most interesting topic I learned in this class was about tariffs and quotas. Before this class I had no idea what the actual implications were of imposing tariffs and quotas, and I had only heard the arguments for increased protectionism. It was good and beneficial to see the reasons that tariffs and quotas should not be imposed, because they will lead to decreasing consumer surplus. I think this is an argument that people too often do not understand, and as world trade gets more and more liberal, I think it is important to know the pros and cons of protectionism.

- This class was very interesting for me especially since I am an economics major. What I learned most in this class was how developing countries enter the world markets and effect they are having on developed countries. Also how through comparative advantage countries like the United States can still engage in trade with countries that don't even have a GDP one hundredth the size of the U.S. It was also really interesting to see the political side of economics in the sense how a country can affect the world and pressure it through economic means such as economic sanctions on countries. It shows how countries with the most advanced economies can control the world even without military power.
- The most interesting thing from this class was the exposing of developed countries' reasons for maintaining export subsidies and production subsidies. It has become clear that if it were not for agricultural lobbyist, the world would be very different. It raises the question of why developed nations protect the status quo. I personally think that our decline caused by playing fairly is a psychological loss that Americans and other developed nations' citizens could not deal with. Very interesting.....Thanks for all your effort and flexibility this semester.
- The most interesting aspect of this class was the way in which I saw political issues clarified through our study of international trade theory. Before this class, I saw immigration policy or free trade policy in a political or social perspective, rather than in a scientific one; I appreciated seeing how certain policies have measurable and undeniable gains, and this clarification solidified my position on many of these issues. I was also interested in the discussion of trade versus aid, in terms of assisting developing nations with economic growth; it was enlightening to see the way policies reinforced patterns of dependence, rather than level the playing field and allow these countries to develop in a more natural and more sustainable way.
- The topic that I found to be the most interest was on agricultural exports. This is one of the few industries left in the world today that has restricted the movement towards trade integration. It is interesting to me that such a vital commodity is so restricted when less important industries suffer no restrictions at all.
- I loved everything about this class. I especially liked the labor/capital studies and movement of factors across borders. Immigration and FDI studies were interesting as well.
- What I really liked and learn most from this class is about subsidies. After Korea and the United States agree to have free trade, most controversial issue was the deterioration of agriculture. Finding out about how subsidy works was thrilling experience for me. Corresponds to the title of this course, a lot of international trade policies were interesting. Thank you Professor.
- Enjoyed studying about skilled and unskilled labor, their movement.
- The most interesting topics we covered were the effects of protectionist trade policies and Stolper-Samuelson theorem using factor endowments and how trade effects the different factors. The case studies were very interesting and easy to relate to due to their modernity.
- What I enjoyed most of the class was when we talked about tariffs and quotas because I considered this a main topic to understand the economic situation of the world in terms of trade. The Multi-Fiber Agreement was really interesting too. For being honest, I really like the class, because I enjoy a lot everything related with economics, and every single chapter and topic that we study during the semester are particularly important to explain the main economic events that have happened throughout history.
- I enjoyed outsourcing because I was familiar with it. I could relate to the topic being from India.
- In this class, I learned a great deal about the methods that countries apply to try to compete at world prices within the world market. It was interesting to see how countries work together through trade integration and the various levels of trade integration that exist. It was also interesting to see how different countries are affected by policies.

- This was my favorite class this semester. I am an econ major and the subject matter and the way you taught the class has helped me gain a better understanding of topics in other courses and with current events. In this course my favorite topic was immigration. I have a job next fall in homeland security working specifically with immigration and customs enforcement, and the knowledge of how immigration effects the prices and labor supply in the economy not only interested and surprised me but it will also be useful. I had no idea we lacked Ph.D.s in this country !! I really enjoyed this class, thank you very much ! I hope to take a class with you again before I graduate.
- I enjoyed learning about labor movements between countries. Furthermore consumer surplus and producer surplus effects by tariffs and subsidies connected with my macroeconomy course which made it enjoyable.
- I liked most learning about the effects on world markets trade barriers and subsidies in the U.S. and how they effect the world market. Also about trade organizations, effects of outsourcing and investment. I prefer these over trade theory because there are not as many assumptions and they seem more realistic.
- Interesting topic for me was related with tariffs and quota. Before I took this class, I did not know exact differences of two. Now it is pleasure to know and distinguish them.