

Course: International Economics

Part I International Economics – An Introduction (5 Sessions)

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| 06.10.20 | 1. Syllabus, Grading & Introduction into the Course |
| 13.10.20 | 2. Introduction into International Flows (Migration, Trade and Capital) |
| 20.10.20 | 3. The Composition of the Balance of Payments |
| 27.10.20 | 4. National Money and International Functions of Money |
| 03.11.20 | 5. A Variety of Exchange Rates |

Part II International Monetary Economics (6 Sessions)

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| 10.11.20 | 6. The Rise and Fall of the Bretton Woods System |
| 17.11.20 | 7. The European Monetary Co-operation |
| 24.11.20 | 8. The European Monetary Union |
| 01.12.20 | 9. The International Monetary Architecture |
| 08.12.20 | 10. Impacts of Covid-19 on International Economic Relations |
| 15.12.20 | 11. Exam on Part I and II |

Part III International Trade (5 Sessions)

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| 05.01.21 | 12. Free Trade and Welfare Effects |
| 12.01.21 | 13. Protectionism and Mercantilism |
| 19.01.21 | 14. Regional Integration |
| 26.01.21 | 15. Bilateral Free Trade Agreements and Multilateralism |
| 02.02.21 | 16. Exam on Part III |

Office Hours

Please mind, I will offer this course in the winter term 2020 **in a digital way**. Accordingly, our course room from now on will be a digital room using the software BigBlueButton. You are able to enter the course room BA International Economics using the link (<https://meet.hwr-berlin.de/b/met-k6j-wcd>) plus the key 411306.

During online teaching: we will use several **digital means**, of which the BigBlueButton, and Moodle are the most important ones. It is absolute essential for you to be able to handle both systems. Digital literacy is required for this course.

- All lectures will take place in the **BigBlueButton**; during lectures we also use the chat on BigBlueButton. However, I will not save this chat; accordingly, students have no access to the BigBlueButton chat anymore after the individual lecture.
- Please mind, all lectures will be recorded.
- During phases of **homework and self-study**, we use the **chat on Moodle**, which will be easily available to students during the complete course.
- Students please make yourself familiar with BigBlueButton here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYYnryIM0Uw>
- I will also use the **Forum** in Moodle to inform you about any updates or upcoming events – only when necessary.
- **Individual consultations** are on appointment. So, please if you need to meet me, please write me an e-mail so we can arrange a consultation. The consultation will take place in my office room on BigBlueButton: <https://meet.hwr-berlin.de/b/met-xw2-ppd>, key: 777046

You will find on Moodle all course-related documents, in particularly

- All documents related to the Course Organisation (e.g. module description, outline, reading list),
 - All documents related to the Sessions 1-15 (professor's PPTs, exercise sheets, academic papers and links to ebooks)
 - All documents necessary to respond to the exercise sheets and most articles and papers on the reading lists
- Students please make yourself familiar with the **course website**. You need to be able to find all information there.

Readings

The primary texts for this course will be the following, but other international economics textbook will also cover the topics in this class.

Feenstra, R.C., Taylor, A.M. (2014), International Economics, New York: Worth Macmillan, 4th edition. <http://www.gbv.de/dms/zbw/872564096.pdf>

Sorry, there is no E-book available in the library for Feenstra/Taylor.

Krugman, P.R., Obstfeld, M., Melitz, M. J. (International Economics: Theory and Policy. Harlow, UK: Pearson, several editions. The e-book may be found here.

E-book in BSEL library:

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hwr/detail.action?docID=5833032>

Reinert, K.A. (2012), An Introduction to International Economics: New Perspectives on the World Economy. Cambridge University Press.

Sorry, there is no E-book available in the library for Reinert.

There are also several websites which are good general references:

<http://fx.sauder.ubc.ca/trends.html>

http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/statis_e.htm

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Economics/14-581Spring-2007/Readings/>

<http://internationalecon.com/Trade/tradehome.php>

<https://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>

<https://data.worldbank.org/>

<https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/>

<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/home/html/index.en.html>

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to provide students with an overview of basics, specific features, characteristics and functioning of the international economy, international trade and monetary relations and the corresponding supranational and international organisations. We will attempt to develop a coherent framework with which to examine current international economic policy questions. In doing so, the student should be able to critically evaluate everyday events, which they read in the newspapers.

In the first part of the course, we will make ourselves familiar with the structure and proposition of the balance of payments within the overall system of national accounting and the relevance of the current account for domestic production and employment as well as the international investment position. In this context, we also discuss national money, international functions of money and exchange rates.

In the second part of the course, we will examine several selected examples of global and regional exchange rate regimes such as the Bretton Woods System, European Monetary System, the European Monetary Union) and the current international monetary architecture. We will also devote one session the impacts of COVID-19 to international relations.

Finally, during the third part of our course, we will discuss different theoretical approaches to free trade (David Ricardo and Adam Smith), protectionism and mercantilism. In addition, we will analyse why countries rather opt for regional integration schemes or bilateral free trade agreements as opposed to unilaterally liberalising their markets.

Teaching

In face-to-face teaching, the course meetings would be as interactive as possible. Normally, the course combines input by the professors, inputs by students on the country of their choice and group work of students. The professor will provide an overview of the basics and stylized facts of international economics; the talks of the students would elaborate on sub-themes of the topic of the week. However, as the Covid-19 forces all of us to switch to online teaching and learning, this course will be less interactive given the limited technological capacities available.

Each class or session consists of **four sections à 45 min.** My intention is that we start each session together. In the **first two sections** of the session (max. 90 min), I will introduce the topic of the session based on a formerly uploaded **PPT**, including Q+A during which you may put forward all your questions. We start the first section of the session specifically with Q+A referring to the last class and the last exercise sheet.

During the **third and fourth section** of the class session, I will provide you with **exercise sheets** for the sessions (1-10, 12-15). The exercise sheets refer to e-books, papers, and articles on Moodle and/or some videos on YouTube. You find **all necessary information** (about the detailed questions and to what paper, article or book the question refers) in the exercise sheets, which are uploaded to Moodle. Students will work on the exercise sheets and prepare a response and solution to the exercises during the third and fourth section of the session, and if necessary at home. During the second half of the class (i.e., the third and fourth section), I will be available for questions via the chat on Moodle.

The **exercise sheets** follow the idea of **guided reading** in order to deepen your understanding of the subject and individual topics. They also serve to **repeat the major concepts** and approaches in international economics and encourage the application of the knowledge on new case studies. In addition, they **prepare you to write the exams**. During the third and fourth section of the session, I will be available for **your questions** via the **chat on Moodle**.

Students have to upload their responses to the exercise sheets on Moodle. Students have time to **upload their responses until 24 hours** before our next class. Accordingly, I will upload sample responses after the time is up for students to upload their responses, but before our next class. This ensures that students are able to compare their own solutions with the sample solution. You are welcome to put forward your questions at the beginning of the subsequent class.

I strongly recommend students to organise themselves in a group of up to three (3) students to respond to the exercise sheets. When you submit your responses, **please display in your response file all names of the group**, for instance doherty_duffy_mclaughlin_exercise 1.docx. Use only your own words. **Do not copy and paste articles or sections of the textbook!**

In total, there are 14 exercise sheets. To participate in the exams, students must respond to 10 out of the 14 exercise sheets in time allotted. These 10 exercises will represent the **oral part** of the course for this semester. If all 14 exercises are turned in, I will take the best 10 for grading.

The exercise sheets have to be handed in 24 hours before next class, in detail the deadline is:

Exercise sheet 1:	12 October 2020
Exercise sheet 2:	19 October 2020
Exercise sheet 3:	26 October 2020
Exercise sheet 4:	2 November 2020
Exercise sheet 5:	9 November 2020
Exercise sheet 6:	16 November 2020
Exercise sheet 7:	23 November 2020
Exercise sheet 8:	30 November 2020
Exercise Sheet 9:	7 December 2020
Exercise Sheet 10	14 December 2020
Exercise Sheet 12	14 January 2021
Exercise Sheet 13	21 January 2021
Exercise Sheet 14	28 January 2021
Exercise Sheet 15	2 February 2021

Grading and Requirements (5 ECTS)

You are required to attend classes, prepare and upload your homework as well as write two exams during the course, one of which will take place mid-term and one exam at the end of the term.

The grading will be divided between the **oral part** (20 per cent or 20 points), the **exam on Part I + II** (40 per cent or 40 points) and the **exam on Part III** (40 per cent or 40 points). **The mid-term exam will be written online and takes place during our session 11 on 15 December 2020 beginning with 12:00 noon.** The **end-of-term exam** will be written in presence on **2 February 2021, also starting at 12:00 noon.** Instructions for each exam will be posted at a later date.