

International trade and migration (60h – 9CFU)

Prof. Silvia Nenci

silvia.nenci@uniroma3.it

Course learning objectives and skill acquisition

This course aims to equip students with an analytical framework to study international trade and migration. It is divided into two main parts. The first part examines classical trade theories (i.e., the Ricardian Model and the Heckscher-Ohlin Model) as well as new trade models that incorporate imperfect competition. Recent developments concerning firm-level evidence will also be explored. Additionally, the effects and political economy determinants of trade policy will be analyzed, including discussions on preferential trade agreements. The second part of the course is dedicated to a comprehensive analysis of migration. Students will study the characteristics, evolution, causes, and economic effects of migration, delving into the complexities surrounding this topic.

Throughout the course, both theoretical frameworks and recent empirical works will be explored, allowing students to understand the implications of the concepts discussed. Methodological issues related to measurement and estimation will also be addressed.

To facilitate active participation and stimulate discussion among students, the course will feature presentations that highlight current facts and figures concerning international trade and migration.

Assessment

The course assessment will consist of an oral exam. Students who attend the class will have the opportunity to give a presentation based on articles proposed during the course and/or carry out empirical exercises as part of their assessment.

Course general schedule

First part:

International trade: stylized facts

- Facts, changes and history of globalization

Trade Theories

- The Ricardian Model
- The Specific-Factors Model
- Factor endowments and the Heckscher-Ohlin Model
- Movement of labor and Capital
- The New Trade Theories
- Offshoring and Global Value Chain
- Firm Heterogeneity

Trade policy

- Import Tariffs and Quotas
- Non-tariff measures
- Preferential agreements and Multilateral trade integration (the World Trade Organization)

Second part:

Migration

- Stylized facts on migration
- Characteristics and evolution of international migration flows
- Determinants of migration
- Economic impact of migration on countries of origin and destination

Empirical lab sessions

- Trade, trade policies and migration data sources
- Working with trade and trade policies data: the gravity model

Teaching material

Textbooks

Feenstra R. C. and A.M Taylor (2017), International Trade, Forth Edition, Worth Publishers, chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Clemens, M. A. 2011. "Economics and Emigration: Trillion-Dollar Bills on the Sidewalk?",

Additional readings

Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 25, No. 3, pp. 83-106

Abramitzky, R., and Boustan, L. (2017). Immigration in American economic history. Journal of economic literature, 55(4), 1311-1345.

Course materials, including lecture slides and articles, will be made available for download on the course's webpage. Additionally, articles on current topics will be presented during class to encourage discussion and engagement among students.

Students attended the MA program (Laurea Magistrale) in International Studies:

The course offers 6 CFU (Crediti Formativi Universitari) for students admitted to the MA program in International Studies for the academic year 2023-2024. As a result, a shorter study program is provided for these students, excluding chapters 3 and 7 of Feenstra and Taylor's book.