1. Course Description & Objectives

This is an advanced undergraduate lecture course looking at the political forces and interests affecting international trade. The course uses the issue-area of trade to examine broad theoretical concepts in political science: cooperation between states, collective action, the design of international rules, and the paradoxes of domestic politics. It assumes limited familiarity with basic economic concepts, and a willingness to engage with some quantitative methods.

A second objective of the course is to provide students with sufficient understanding of the political economy of trade theory to critically assess the portrayal of events related to international trade and the global economy in popular discourse and in the media. Among other topics, we cover the economic foundations of trade, as well as the intellectual history of these ideas; the emergence of international trade agreements; individual and state interests with regards to trade liberalization; the roles of emerging economic powers such as India and China; debates and controversies surrounding the GATT/WTO, and current trade issues such as environmental standards and the proliferation of preferential trade agreements.

2. Course Requirements

Students are responsible for all assigned readings. I will assume knowledge of the ideas discussed in the readings in lecture, and all readings are part of exam material, though the emphasis will be on the concepts covered in class. Some of the readings, taken from academic journals, rely on advanced quantitative methods. You are not being asked to grasp these in detail: make sure, however, that you can identify the questions the authors are asking, the arguments they are propounding, and views they may be arguing against.

Conference participation is mandatory, and an important part of the course grade (10%). This is the forum in which to test out ideas about the course material, even those ideas that are not yet fully worked out.
Students will write two short response papers. The first of these is an examination of a current event in the form of an op-ed, using some theoretical concept examined in class. It will be due in class on Oct. 5th, 2017, and announced in class a week prior, on Sept. 28th. The second short paper will be a response to a question posted in class on Nov 2nd, and due Nov 14th, 2017. Each paper will count for 15% of your grade.

3. Grade Distribution:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam (in class)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 short papers:</td>
<td>15% (each)</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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4. The Fine Print

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more info)

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Instructors who adopt the use of text-matching software to verify the originality of students’ written course work must register for use of the software with Educational Technologies and must inform their students before the drop/add deadline, in writing, of the use of text-matching software in a course.

Late work will be penalized one letter grade (e.g. from a B to a B-, or from a B- to a C+) per day. No distinction is made between being a minute late and being 23 hours late, so be strategic. If you drop off late work outside of class, you MUST have it time-stamped and signed by a secretary in the political science department.

5. Required Texts

There is no textbook. All readings are either available through JSTOR, or will be posted on the course website. As the semester unfolds, we may add readings covering current events related to course material. Readings marked with an asterisk are optional but strongly encouraged for background reading.
6. Course Schedule

Week 1. Introduction. An Intellectual History. (Sept 5th and 7th)


Week 2. The Evolution of Ideas About Trade (Sept 12th and 14th)


Week 3. Variation in Trade Policy Through Time (Sept 19th and 21st)

- Bhagwati, 43-61.

Week 4. The Emergence of Institutions (Sept. 26th and 28th)


Week 5. The Demand for Protection (Oct 3rd and 5th)


**Week 6. The Supply of Protection (Oct 10th and 12th)**


**Week 7. *** Midterm on Oct 17th. *** Oct. 19th: Introduction to the WTO.**

Midterm covers all the material covered up to and including Oct 12th.


**Week 8. The Effects of the WTO (Oct 24th and 26th)**


**Week 9. Dispute Settlement: “Cornerstone of the GATT/WTO” (Oct 31st and Nov 2nd)**

• Oatley, 64-71.


* WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding Summary: “Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes”.
  [http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/ursum_e.htm#Understanding](http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/ursum_e.htm#Understanding)

**Week 10. Trade Liberalization and Compensation (Nov 7th and 9th)**


  (Read introduction: pp.2121-2125).


Week 11. Trade Standards: Races to the Top, Races to the Bottom? (Nov 14th and 16th)


Week 14. Supply Chains and Regional Proliferation (Nov 21st and 23rd)


Week 15. The Future of International Trade (Nov 28th)

In-class review and discussion.

*** Final Exam (Nov 30th) ***