Mount Holyoke College  
Econ 312: Seminar in International Trade  
Fall Semester 2010  
Tuesday 1:15 pm - 4:05 pm, Clapp Room 203

**Instructor:**  
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Office Hours: T 4:15-5:15, Th 1:15-3:30

**Course objective:**  
In this course we will examine current trade policy debates with respect to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and regional and bilateral trade and investment agreements. We will address issues such as: do developing countries benefit from trade liberalizations with developed countries? What happens to access to low cost medication in developing countries when intellectual property rights are enforced (TRIPs agreement)? Is fair trade fair?

**Readings:**  
All readings for the course will be posted on Ella and will be updated throughout the semester.

**Course Requirements:**

**Term Paper:**  
For the term paper, choose a subject related to one of the topics discussed in class. Approach the topic from the perspective of an individual country. You must identify and define the international trade concern, provide background analysis of the problem, discuss alternative policies that can be adopted and make a policy recommendation based on a theoretical result. You will do that by writing a technical report on this issue which will include an empirical and theoretical analysis.

Note that mere reporting of facts is not enough. Make sure you are not making value judgements or predictions. More details on the paper and presentation will be given later.

A **3 page proposal** is due October 5th. This proposal should describe the issue you have chosen to explore and include an outline, preliminary list of references, and source of data you wish to use to analyze your topic. You should talk to me before this is due to make sure you are thinking of an appropriate topic.

A **5 page progress report** is due October 26th. This should include a revised outline as well as a review of the theoretical and empirical literature you have read so far and how it relates to your research topic.

A **first draft** of your paper is due November 16th. This must be less than 20 pages (excluding graphs, charts, bibliography, etc), Times New Roman 12 point font, double spaced. You should treat this as your final work and should have to make only minor changes to this to submit your final version of the paper. This draft will be returned to you with comments, questions, and suggestions for improvement. You will also have the opportunity to receive class input before your final draft.
Within a week of receiving comments on your first draft you should provide a **response** – this may be an email – to discuss your reactions, agreements, disagreements, etc.

The **final draft** of your paper is due December 14th. Again, this must be less than 20 pages (excluding graphs, charts, bibliography, etc), Times New Roman 12 point font, double spaced. You must submit a hardcopy (delivered either to me or my mailbox) as well as an electronic version of the paper (word or pdf file is acceptable, emailed to me). 20 points (out of 100) will be deducted for each day your final draft is late.

**Presentation:**
Each student will be responsible for a 10 minute presentation on her paper topic. You will also be responsible for providing comments on other students’ presentations.

**Leading Discussion:**
The key task in leading a discussion is coming up with good questions. This is not a presentation. I recommend making a list of questions that will elicit a good discussion on the selected reading. Avoid questions with yes/no answers unless it is followed with a “why.” You should send me a list of questions a day or two before class for feedback. The discussion should last 20-30 minutes.

**Referee Reports:**
There will be weekly written assignments (in class). At the beginning of each class, I will allow up to 20 minutes for each student to write the key points/answer questions on one of the articles assigned for the day (I will announce the article in class that day, so read them all!). A good guide for how to write a referee report can be found in the Thomson and Cochrane papers on Ella (first day of class material).

**Plagiarism:**
All work must be the student’s own and all work must be correctly cited. The first instance of plagiarism, the student will receive a zero grade on the assignment. Any further plagiarism will result in a Fail grade for the course and the student will be reported to the College.

**Grading:**
Referee Reports: 15%
Lead Discussion: 10%
Research Proposal: 5%
Progress Report: 5%
First Draft: 10%
Response: 5%
Final Draft: 35%
Class Presentation: 15%
Tentative Course Schedule (Will be updated–Check regularly):

9/14/09: Introduction, History of Trade Agreements

- Thomson “A Guide for the Young Economist” Chapter 3
- Understanding the World Trade Organization (http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/tif_e.htm)
- Cochrane “Writing Tips for Ph. D. Students” (2005)

9/21/09: Principles of Trade Theory (Ricardian, Specific Factors, Heckscher-Ohlin)

- Feenstra and Taylor “International Economics” Chapters 2, 3 and 4;

9/28/09: Gender and Development, Wage Gaps

- OECD “Gender and Sustainable Development: Maximizing the Economic, Social and Environmental Role of Women” (March 2008)

10/5/09: Innovation, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Infant Industry Protectionism, Health

- Lee Branstetter “Do Stronger Patents Induce More Local Innovation?” (pp 309-320)
- Research Proposal Due

10/12/09: Mid Semester Break
10/19/09: Outsourcing, trade in services

- Markusen “Modeling the Offshoring of White-Collar Services: From Comparative Advantage to the New Theories of Trade and FDI” NBER 11827 (2005)


10/26/09: Agriculture and export subsidies

- Feenstra and Taylor, Ch 10 (sections 1-4)

- http://www.wto.org/english/theWTO_e/minist_e/min05_e/brief_e/brief03_e.htm

- http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/ursum_e.htm#aAgreement


* Progress Report Due *

11/2/09: International Finance, FDI, Exports vs FDI


- Broadman, Harry G. ; Recanatini, Francesca ; “Where has all the foreign investment gone in Russia?” World Bank Report WPS2640 (2001)

11/9/09: Environment

- Feenstra and Taylor, Ch 11 sec 3;

- Ayse M. Erdogan “Environmental Regulations and Bilateral Manufacturing Trade: The Case of OECD Countries” (2009)

11/16/09: Fair Trade


- http://www.transfairusa.org/

☆ First Draft Due

11/23/09: NO CLASS

☆ Paper comments and responses

11/30/09: Student Presentations

12/7/09: Student Presentations

12/14/09: Geography and Trade


☆ Final Draft Due