



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

Course Syllabus
Year 2024-25

SUBJECT FACT SHEET

General information	
Name	International Trade and Investments
Code	E000002587
Degree	- Dual degree in Global Communication and International Relations (RICOM) - Dual degree in Law and International Relations (E5)
Year	Fourth year
ECTS credits	4,5
Character	Obligatory
Department	Economics
Teaching language	English
Description	This subject offers a historical perspective on trends in international trade and investment, as well as study cases on current economic issues. International trade: absolute and comparative advantages. The costs of protectionism. Economic integration. Exchange rates, interest rates and financial markets. Balance of payments. Global balances and imbalances. International investments: foreign direct investments, portfolio investments and emerging investors.

Teaching staff	
Lecturer/coordinator	
Name	Eszter Wirth
Department	Economics
Office and headquarters	C-430, Alberto Aguilera
e-mail	ewirth@comillas.edu
Tutorship timetable	Appointments via email

SPECIFIC DATA ON THE SUBJECT

Contextualization
Contribution to the students' professional profile
<p>International relations are impossible to analyse without an economic perspective. This subject focuses on the field of international economics, more specifically on relations established between countries and enterprises through trade and investment.</p> <p>The subject is mainly based on understanding and interpreting the mechanisms and means that determine both variables. Throughout this course students should acquire autonomy in analysing international relations by understanding the main concepts and using rigorous data sources. The subject will focus on current issues (inflation, government indebtedness, trade wars, Brexit, currency turbulences, investment disputes, etc.)</p>
Pre-requirements
<p>Having studied the two previous subjects in the field of Economics: Economic Approaches to International Relations (1st year) and International Political Economy (3rd year).</p>

THEMATIC BLOCKS AND CONTENTS

CONTENTS
Block 1: Introduction
<p>Unit 1: Introduction: What should a BA degree student know about international trade and investment?</p> <p>Unit 2: Revision of basic economic concepts (GDP, business cycles, inflation, economic policy...)</p>
Block 2: International trade
<p>Unit 1: Indicators on international trade</p> <p>Unit 2: Advantages of international trade: the absolute and comparative advantage theories</p> <p>Unit 3: Protectionism and economic policy</p> <p>Unit 4: Economic integration</p>
Block 3: Exchange rates, interest rates and global foreign exchange markets
<p>Unit 1: Determinants of exchange rates</p>

Unit 2: Economic agents and exchange rate risk
Unit 3: Exchange rate regimes and economic policy
Block 4: Balance of payments (BOP)
Unit 1: The balance of payments
1.1 Current account and capital balance
1.2 Financial account balance
Unit 2: Exercises
Unit 3: Global imbalances
Block 5: International investments
Unit 1: Investments
1.1 Main concepts
Unit 2: Types of international investments
2.1 Foreign direct investment (FDI)
2.2 Portfolio investments and financial markets
2.3 Real estate investment
2.4 Emerging investors: sovereign wealth funds and venture capitalists for startups

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

General methodologic aspects	
Classroom teaching: activities	% Attendance
1. Exposition of lessons. Exposition of the subject's contents by the lecturer in a clear, structured and motivating way. Complemented by audiovisual tools, such as slides, charts, websites, videos and quizzes.	35
2. Practical activities and problem solving. Students should continually read articles, watch videos or search in databases proposed by the lecturer in order to comment them in class. The main aim is the application of the theory to current affairs and real cases. They should also calculate some basic variables regarding macroeconomics, trade and investments. Could be carried out during lectures or at home.	25

<p>3. Individual and group assignments. Reading articles and writing personal thoughts and critical assessment. Shorter assignments are individual, but the longest assignment will be carried out in groups.</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>4. Individual study. The students should study the contents of the subject exposed in class and establish interrelations between them with the aid of the reference materials suggested by the lecturer. The purpose is the development of the students' analytical and synthetic abilities.</p>	<p>20</p>

GRADING CRITERIA

Graded activity	Criteria	Weight
Quizzes on Moodle (individual)	Each fortnight a quiz with multiple-choice questions will be uploaded on Moodle. Students are required to complete it during a time limit. Unanswered quiz without proper justification scores as zero.	20%
Assignments at home in pairs (exercises and readings) and final task in groups (report on a country's economic performance)	Use of vocabulary, mathematical formulas, data sources learnt in class. Accuracy and detailed answers. Meeting deadlines. Addition of own thoughts and opinions.	30%
Final exam	Multiple-choice questions and two or three longer exercises (commenting an article/chart, calculating some variables). Students should get at least 4 out of 10 in the final exam in order to pass the subject. If not, they will have to resit the exam in June/July.	50%

OTHER GRADING CRITERIA

The criteria stated above applies to students who regularly attend lectures and pass the final exam in the ordinary call. For those who do not, they will have to (re)sit the exam in the extraordinary call (June).

- For those students who did not attend class on a regular basis the mark of the final exam will be their final mark, without considering the course assignments.

- For those students who did attend class on a regular basis and have handed in the assignments, but did not pass the exam in the ordinary call: resit the exam in the extraordinary call (June). The exam mark will weight 50% and the average of their assignments 50% (30% tasks and 20% Moodle quizzes). That is to say, the same criteria is applied as in the ordinary call.

Warning: according to the university’s rules, those who miss more than a third (33%) of the lectures without proper justification, will fail the ordinary call (grade: “no presentado”) and will have to resit the exam in the extraordinary call (June) (General Regulations, art. 93.1).

Warning: according to the university’s rules, an inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AIG software is considered as a serious misconduct and could lead not only to a failure in both ordinary and extraordinary calls, but also to a temporary expulsion from the university, up to three months (General Regulations, art. 168.2.e). By “inappropriate use” we mean using these AIG programmes to write the final task and the individual assignments. However, the answers are specific to articles or databases and the data should be up to date, which restrict the usefulness of these software.

WORK PLAN SUMMARY

Classroom and non-classroom activities	Frequency	Place
Cases and exercises	Each week or fortnight	In class
Wooclap/Kahoot quizzes	Each fortnight	In class
Final assignment in groups	At the end of the semester	At home
Assignments and readings in pairs (there will be 3-4)	Each 3-4 weeks (approx.)	At home
Quizzes on Moodle (there will be 3-4)	Each 2-3 weeks (approx.)	At home
Working hours by student		
CLASSROOM HOURS		
45		
NON-CLASSROOM HOURS		
50		

References

Textbooks

- International Economics: Theory and Policy (10th Edition). Paul Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld y Marc Melitz. (2014).
- International Business. Competing in the Global Marketplace (14th edition). Charles W. L. Hill (2023).

The books are mere references complemented by slides and documents handed out by the lecturer or uploaded on Moodle, which will be the main materials to follow the course.

Articles and videos

- Press articles: The Economist, Financial Times, Politico...
- Think-tank articles: The Council on Foreign Relations, Real Instituto Elcano...
- Youtube: CNBC, The Economist, BBC, Financial Times, TLDR News, Visualpolitik...

Data sources

- ECB: <https://sdw.ecb.europa.eu/>
- Eurostat: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>
- IMF: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/SPROLLs/world-economic-outlook-databases>
- OECD: <https://data.oecd.org/>
- Observatory of Economic Complexity: <https://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/>
- The Atlas of Economic Complexity: <https://atlas.cid.harvard.edu/>
- Trading Economics: <https://tradingeconomics.com/>
- World Bank: <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=world-development-indicators>
- WTO: <http://stat.wto.org/CountryProfile/WSDBCountryPFHome.aspx?Language=E>

Notes

- Uploaded by the lecturer on Moodle.