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**“Retreating from trade would make countries more, not less, vulnerable to production shocks arising from natural disasters, crop failure, or disease outbreaks. That does not sound like good risk management in an age of climate crisis and pandemics.”**

*World Trade Organization Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala  
National Foreign Trade Council, 27 April 2022*

How is the changing global balance of economic and political power shaping global trade relations? What are the sources fueling trade-related tensions and geopolitical disputes today? How has Russia's invasion of Ukraine impacted the global trading system after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic? What explains the United States' unilateral and multilateral responses to the rise of trade-related conflict, especially the "trade war" with China? Is the rise of trade conflict a new global trend, or will it play out as a brief period of disruption before the emergence of a new global consensus framed by greater economic cooperation and the struggle for what the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) calls the global green new deal? Can global trade drive development and growth toward a low carbon pathway?

**Global Trade Relations** considers these questions through an examination of the global political economy, the growing role of international trade as a force for development and political conflict, the evolution and structure of the global trade regime institutionalized through the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the expanding number of preferential and regional free trade agreements and negotiations. The course employs a multi-disciplinary approach to survey the principal empirical dimensions of international trade as well as the economic, legal, and political theories that offer explanations of the development of international trade and the evolution of the WTO as well as those preferential agreements and regimes that promote and regulate exchanges of goods and services around the world.

## **Course Goals**

*Global Trade Relations* offers students the opportunity to understand the role of trade as both a cause and consequence of the recent evolution of the global political economy and critically assess the explanatory power of divergent theories and propositions that explain international trade regime development with particular emphasis on the origins and institutional development of the WTO. The course also provides a focused case study approach to critically evaluate the formation and implementation of U.S. trade policy from the establishment of the GATT to the disruptive, often unilateral trade policies and measures implemented by the Trump administration.

## **Course Learning Outcomes**

This course offers students the opportunity to demonstrate the achievement of the following learning outcomes through presentations and lectures, assignments and the final exam.

1. Recognize and employ prominent theories of international trade and trade policy formation to explain the development of the multilateral trading system as well as national policy responses;
2. Understand and critically review the underlying philosophy and political economy of the World Trade Organization;
3. Describe and comprehend the multilateral trading system, preferential and regional trade agreements, and the associated rules, practices, legal frameworks, and essential regulatory institutions and processes.
4. Understand the economic, legal, and political foundations of international trade regime formation and development;
5. Comprehend and employ the methodological foundations and techniques for examining global political economy, international trade, and the formation and development of the WTO and preferential trade agreements.

## **Course Methods**

*Global Trade Relations* relies on a diverse set of teaching methods and learning opportunities to create a safe and successful learning experience as well as promote an engaging learning community for all students, faculty and guests. These methods include a rigorous set of required readings, lectures, facilitated class discussions, assignments and the final exam. Students are expected to attend all scheduled course sessions to achieve success in this course.

## **Required Readings**

Required readings are listed in the Course Schedule. Each live sessions features one required reading.

## **Assignments and Exams**

### ***Class Participation***

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled course sessions and to be prepared to discuss the assigned readings for the week. Class participation is worth a maximum of 30 points.

### **Global Trade Challenges Essay**

Students are required to submit a three (3) page, typed and doubled spaced essay that identifies, describes and critically assesses a particular, current challenge to global trade relations. The assignment is worth a maximum of 30 points. The assignment is due on 3 July. The essay requires:

- 1) Include a cover page with formal title, name, course name, and date;
- 2) Present an introduction of a distinct global trade relations challenge and explain its importance;
- 3) Provide a precise and empirical description of the challenge; and
- 4) Considers its impacts and possible resolutions.

### **Assignment Rubric**

Meets and exceeds all requirements and effectively identifies and describes a global trade relations challenge and its impacts (requirements 1-4)	30 points
Meets all assignment requirements	24-29 points
Meets some but not all assignment requirements	18-23 points
Does not meet assignment requirements	0 points

### **The Final Exam (take home)**

The final exam question will be distributed and discussed in class on 10 July. Students are required to submit a typed, double-spaced, five (5) page response to the final exam question. Students are required to draw from the required readings of this course to introduce, frame, conceptualize and document their responses. External sources are not required but can be used to supplement documentation. Sources should be carefully cited and a list of bibliographic references is required. Students must submit their final exam responses by electronic mail on July 15. The Final Exam is worth a maximum of 40 points.

### **Final Course Grade**

The following rubric summarizes the maximum point distribution for all assignments and exams required for completion of this course:

Class Participation	Global Trade Challenges Essay	Final Exam
30 points	30 points	40 points

The following rubric serves as the point distribution for the calculation of the final letter grade.

100-92 points	91-80 points	79-70 points	69-0 points
A	B	C	F

### **Academic Integrity**

At George Mason University, Academic Integrity is demonstrated in our work, community, the classroom and research. We maintain this commitment to high academic standards through Mason's Honor Code. It is an

agreement made by all members of our community to not “cheat, steal, plagiarize, or lie in matters related to academic work.” Students sign an agreement to adhere to the Honor Code on their application for admission to Mason and are responsible for being aware of the most current version of the code. Having an Honor Code allows us to ensure that every student does his or her own work.

## Course Schedule

Session	Theme	Readings
26 June	The Political Economy of International Trade	Milner, Helen V. "The political economy of international trade." <i>Annual review of political science</i> 2, no. 1 (1999): 91-114.  <a href="#">World Trade Review: Introduction</a>
27 June	The Global Economy	UNCTAD. <i>Tapering in a Time of Conflict</i> . 2022. <a href="https://unctad.org/webflyer/tapering-time-conflict-trade-and-development-report-update-march-2022">https://unctad.org/webflyer/tapering-time-conflict-trade-and-development-report-update-march-2022</a>
28 June	The State and Trade I	Krasner, Stephen D. <i>State Power and the Structure of International Trade</i> . <i>World Politics</i> . Vol. 28, No. 3. (April 1976:317-347).
29 June	The State and Trade II	Ruggie, John Gerard. <i>International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Postwar Economic Order</i> . <i>International Organization</i> . Vol. 36, Issue 2. Spring, 1982: 379-415.
30 June	Domestic Politics and Trade	Putnam, Robert D. <i>Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: the logic of two level games</i> . <i>International Organization</i> . Vol. 42, No.3. Summer, 1988: 427-460.
1 July	Open Session	No readings
3 July	Trade Liberalization I  * Global Trade Challenges Essay DUE	Bhattacharya, Debesh. "GATT and the Emergence of the World Trade Organisation." <i>Sydney Studies in Society and Culture</i> 15 (1997).
4 July	Trade Liberalization II	Hoekman, Bernard. "Strengthening the Global Trade Architecture for Development: the Post Doha Agenda." <i>World Trade Review</i> 1, no. 1 (2002): 23-45.
5 July	Developing countries and the WTO	Hopewell, Kristen. "Different paths to power: The rise of Brazil, India and China at the World Trade Organization." <i>Review of international political economy</i> 22, no. 2 (2015): 311-338.
6 July	Multilateral Trade Negotiations	Singh, J. P. "Development Objectives and Trade Negotiations: Moralistic Foreign Policy or Negotiated Trade Concessions?." <i>International Negotiation</i> 15, no. 3 (2010): 367-389.
7 July	World Trade Organization: Doha Round	Gallagher, Kevin P. "Understanding developing country resistance to the Doha Round." <i>Review of international political economy</i> 15, no. 1 (2007): 62-85.
8 July	Open Session	No readings
10 July	World Trade Organization: The Future of Multilateralism	Baldwin, Richard. "The World Trade Organization and the future of multilateralism." <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 30, no. 1 (2016): 95-116.
11 July	World Trade Organization: the Cotton Dispute	Mark S. Langevin <i>Foot Dragging or Strategic Withdrawal? The Cotton Dispute and Executive Compliance</i> . <i>Journal of World Trade</i> , Vol. 52, Issue 4, pp. 2018:575-598  Davey, William J. "WTO Dispute Settlement: Crown Jewel or Costume

		<i>Jewelry?" World Trade Review, 2022, 1–10</i>
12 July	<b>China and the World Trade Organization</b>	Gao, Henry. "China's Changing Perspective on the WTO: From Aspiration, Assimilation to Alienation." <i>World Trade Review</i> , 2022, 1–17.
13 July	<b>United States Trade Policy After Doha: The case of the Section 232 Steel and Aluminum Tariffs</b>	Langevin, Mark S. <a href="#">"Troubling Relief: The Evolution of the Section 232 Steel and Aluminum Tariff Exclusion Process."</a> <i>Mercatus Center Policy Brief Series</i> (2021).
14 July	<b>Climate Change and the Future of Trade Liberalization</b>	Leal-Arcas, Rafael, and Kaushal Prakash. "Green Bills for Green Earth: How the International Trade and Climate Regimes Work Together to Save the Planet." <i>European Energy and Environmental Law Review</i> 31, no. 1 (2022).  Meyer, Timothy, and Todd N. Tucker. "A Pragmatic Approach to Carbon Border Measures." <i>World Trade Review</i> 21, no. 1 (2022): 109–20.
15 July	<b>Final Exam DUE</b>	<b>Final Exam DUE</b>