Lincoln University

BA 310 – International Economics
Fall 2026

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor:	Alex Anokhin, Ph.D.
Lecture Schedule:	Monday, 3:30 pm – 6:15 pm (Pacific Time)
Credits:	3 units / 45 lecture hours
Level:	Mastery 1 (M1)
Office Hours:	Monday, 6:15 pm – 7:00 pm (on Zoom, after class) and by appointment. **e-mail:** aanokhin@lincolnuca.edu
Zoom:	https://lincolnuca-edu.zoom.us/j/4929867479
Canvas:	lincolnuca.instructure.com
Textbook:	International Economics, 8/E James Gerber. Pearson, 2022 (ISBN-13: 9780136892137). Supplementary readings on current trade and financial developments are posted on Canvas.
Last Revision:	August 24, 2026

CATALOG DESCRIPTION
This course is intended to deal with the fundamental theories of international relations, global interdependence, the modern nation-state system, and the causes of war and conditions of peace. It covers theories of direct foreign investments, behavior of MNC's, country risk analysis, money and finances, investment restrictions and incentives, prospects for international investments. (3 units).
Prerequisite: ECON 20A

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES
In our study, we will attempt to break artificial barriers that divide trade theory, international finance and political economy in order to gain a better understanding of the highly interconnected modern world. We will introduce approaches used for the evaluation of international trade policy, international financial processes, as well as global financial crises. Because the rules of the trading system have changed rapidly since 2025, the course pairs the textbook with current material on tariffs, sanctions, export controls, and industrial policy so that theory is tested against live cases.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES[1]

	Course LO	Program LO	Institutional LO	Assessment Activities
1	Understand and critically analyze the principles and realities of international trade as well as corresponding threats and opportunities for business and investment	PLO 1	ILO 1b, ILO 2b, ILO 4b	Assignments 1–2, Midterm exam
2	Discuss and compare rationales and limitations of international financial and monetary systems as well as governmental trade policies	PLO 2	ILO 1b, ILO 2b, ILO 4b	Assignment 3, Final exam
3	Use the understanding of international economics to present viable strategic alternatives in the context of international business.	PLO 3	ILO 2b, ILO 7b	Group project
4	Critically analyze risks and benefit of international business activities as related to global investment and marketing strategies	PLO 4	ILO 4b, ILO 5b, ILO 6b	Debate, Group project

PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY

Lecture method is combined with in-class discussions, case studies and assignments of various kinds. Participation in in-class activities is an essential part of the course and will be graded. The course meets synchronously on Zoom; keep your camera on and be ready to be called on.

CLASS RULES

1. Class attendance is required. Attendance will be taken each class at a time chosen by the instructor.
2. Students are required to login to class on time.
3. Submissions of home assignments will be conducted via the course Canvas website only (Log in to lincolnuca.instructure.com with Lincoln email credentials to access). No hard copy or email submissions will be accepted.
4. All quizzes, exams, assignments, and projects must be completed and handed in on time. Late submissions will result in lower grade (each day of delay costs 4% points).
5. Detected cheating/plagiarism will result in "F" for the assignment.

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Generative AI tools (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Copilot, and AI features built into research, spreadsheet, and writing software) are part of the professional toolkit in business and economic analysis. You are permitted to use them in this course, including on assignments, debate preparation, and the group project, under the following conditions:

[1]Detailed description of learning outcomes and information about the assessment procedure are available at the acqa.lincolnuca.edu.

1. Disclosure is required. Every submission must end with an AI Use Statement identifying which tools were used and for what (brainstorming, drafting, finding or summarizing sources, analyzing data, editing). Submissions that did not use AI should say so. Failure to disclose AI use is an academic integrity violation and results in an F for the assignment.
2. You are responsible for the work. AI output may be wrong, fabricated, outdated, or generic. Verify facts, sources, and figures; tariff schedules, exchange rates, and trade statistics change quickly and AI tools are often months behind. You must be able to explain and defend anything you submit. "The AI said so" is not a defense.
3. The midterm and final exams are AI-free. Both are taken live on Zoom with camera on.
4. Read each assignment. Assignment 2 requires AI use; Assignment 3 prohibits it. The default is "permitted with disclosure."
5. Do not enter non-public information (for example, data obtained directly from a company or organization for your project) into public AI tools.

Using AI well is a skill this course assesses. Submissions that are clearly unedited AI output will be graded on their merits, which are usually low.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND DEBATE

Three short individual assignments (5% each) and one in-class debate are spread across the semester. Full instructions and rubrics are on Canvas.

Assignment 1. Comparative Advantage (due Sep 14).

A problem set on the two-country, two-good model: production possibilities, opportunity costs, the pattern of trade, terms of trade, and gains from trade, followed by a short written interpretation of a real-world case. AI permitted with disclosure.

Assignment 2. Trade Policy Brief (due Oct 5).

A one-page (about 500 words) policy brief on one current U.S. or foreign trade measure (for example, a Section 232 sectoral tariff, the 2026 Section 301 tariffs, semiconductor export controls, or a retaliatory measure by a trading partner). Required workflow: produce a first draft with a generative AI tool, then verify every factual claim against a primary source (USTR, CBP, Federal Register, WTO, IMF, a central bank, or a peer-reviewed or think-tank source), annotate what you corrected, and submit both the annotated AI draft and your final version. AI use is required. Your brief will also serve as your preparation for the debate.

Debate: "Free Trade vs. Strategic Protection" (in class, Oct 5).

Teams and positions are assigned on Sep 28. Each team prepares an opening statement, anticipates the other side's best arguments, and answers questions from the class. Graded as part of participation.

Assignment 3. Balance of Payments and Exchange Rate Analysis (due Nov 2).

Choose one country (other than the United States). Using IMF, World Bank, or central-bank data, describe its current account and financial account balances over the last three years, its exchange rate regime, and the movement of its currency against the dollar, and explain the pattern using the concepts of Chapters 9–10. Two to three pages plus a data table. AI use is prohibited on this assignment; the AI Use Statement must say "No AI tools were used."

EXAMS

The exams will consist of questions based on lectures, assigned chapters and supplementary reading. The midterm (Oct 12) covers Chapters 1–7 and the geoeconomics readings; the final (Dec 7) is comprehensive with emphasis on Chapters 9–17. Both exams are taken live during class time on Zoom with camera on. No AI tools, notes, or outside help are permitted.

GROUP PROJECT

In this group project, students are required to conduct a global market analysis, integrating concepts and theories discussed in the International Economics course. Each group will choose a specific market sector in a particular region or country and analyze it in the context of international trade theories, tariff policies, exchange rate dynamics, and other relevant economic concepts. The project aims to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and its practical application in real-world market scenarios.

Objectives:

1. To perform a detailed analysis of a chosen global market sector.
2. To apply and integrate international economic theories and concepts within the market analysis.
3. To explore the impact of international economic policies on the selected market.
4. To develop teamwork skills and effectively communicate findings through a group presentation.

Scope:

– Selection of a market sector (e.g., renewable energy in Scandinavia, textile industry in Southeast Asia, semiconductors in Taiwan, automobiles in Mexico).
– In-depth analysis of the market, considering international economic theories and real-world economic policies.
– Critical examination of factors such as trade barriers, tariffs, sanctions or export controls, and currency exchange rates on the market.
– Preparation of a report and an in-class presentation.

Milestones and Deliverables:

– **Project proposal (due Oct 19, 5%):** one page listing group members, the sector and region, three questions the project will answer, and five initial sources.
– **Report (due Nov 30, 15%):** 12–15 pages, double-spaced, APA format, comprising the market analysis, integration of economic theories, and conclusions, ending with an AI Use Statement.
– **Presentation (Nov 30, 10%):** 12–15 minutes in class, summarizing key findings and theoretical applications, followed by questions.

Formatting and Style:

– Strict adherence to APA formatting standards for the report.
– Clear, coherent, and well-structured content in both the report and presentation.

Sample Project Outline

1. *Introduction*
– Overview of the chosen market sector and region.
– Objectives and scope of the analysis.
2. *Theoretical Framework*
– Description of relevant international economics theories (trade theories, tariffs, exchange rates).
– Rationale for selecting these theories for analysis.

3. *Market Analysis*
– Current market landscape and key players.
– Analysis of market trends, growth potential, and challenges.
4. *Application of Economic Theories*
– Integration of international trade theories to understand market dynamics.
– Impact of tariffs, sanctions, and trade policies on the market.
– Role of exchange rates in the market's performance.
5. *Discussion*
– Interpretation of findings in the context of theoretical concepts.
– Identification of unique market characteristics influenced by economic policies.
6. *Conclusion*
– Summary of key insights.
7. *References*

Project Evaluation Rubric

1. *Theoretical Integration (30%)*
– Excellence: Demonstrates exceptional understanding and application of international economic theories to the market analysis.
– Proficiency: Adequately integrates theories with minor gaps in application.
– Basic: Shows basic understanding but with noticeable gaps in theory application.
– Insufficient: Lacks a clear connection to relevant economic theories.

2. *Market Analysis Depth (25%)*
– Excellence: Provides a comprehensive and insightful analysis of the chosen market.
– Proficiency: Offers a good level of detail with some depth.
– Basic: Analysis is adequate but lacks depth.
– Insufficient: Analysis is superficial or incomplete.

3. *Application of Course Concepts (20%)*
– Excellence: Applies course concepts accurately and effectively.
– Proficiency: Generally accurate application with minor inaccuracies.
– Basic: Adequate application with several inaccuracies.
– Insufficient: Poor or incorrect application of course concepts.

4. *Research and Data Use (10%)*
– Excellence: Extensive and credible research with excellent data use; all AI-assisted content verified against primary sources.
– Proficiency: Good research with appropriate data use.
– Basic: Adequate research with some relevant data.
– Insufficient: Limited research and poor data use.

5. *Report Quality and APA Formatting (10%)*
– Excellence: Report is exceptionally well-written, structured, and formatted according to APA guidelines.
– Proficiency: Report is well-written with minor formatting errors.
– Basic: Report is adequately written but has some errors in formatting.
– Insufficient: Report is poorly written with significant APA formatting issues.

6. *Presentation Clarity and Effectiveness (5%)*
– Excellence: Presentation is highly effective, clear, and engaging.
– Proficiency: Presentation is clear with minor issues in delivery.
– Basic: Presentation is adequate but lacks engagement or clarity.
– Insufficient: Presentation is ineffective and unclear.

GRADING POLICY
All assignments, quizzes, projects and exams are evaluated using the indicated system:

94-100	A	73-76	C
90-93	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	60-66	D
80-82	B-	0-59	F
77-79	C+		

Tentative Weights

Participation (discussions, in-class activities) and debate	10%
Written assignments (3 × 5%)	15%
Group project: proposal 5%, report 15%, presentation 10%	30%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	25%
Total	**100%**

COURSE SCHEDULE
Class meets Mondays, 3:30–6:15 pm Pacific. Readings are to be completed before the class in which they are listed. Assignments are due on Canvas by 11:59 pm Pacific on the date shown.

Wk	Date	Topic	Chapter	Assignments Due
1	Aug 24	Introduction to the World Economy. International Economic Institutions.	Ch. 1, 2	
2	Aug 31	Theories of International Trade: Comparative Advantage and the Gains from Trade.	Ch. 3	
—	**Sep 7**	**Labor Day – no class.**		
3	Sep 14	Theories of International Trade: Factor Proportions, New Trade Theory, and Beyond Comparative Advantage.	Ch. 4, 5	Assignment 1. Comparative Advantage.
4	Sep 21	The Theory of Government Intervention: Tariffs and Quotas.	Ch. 6	

Wk	Date	Topic	Chapter	Assignments Due
5	Sep 28	The Practice of Government Intervention: Commercial Policy and the Political Economy of Trade. Geoeconomics: tariffs, sanctions, export controls, industrial policy, and supply-chain reshoring.	Ch. 7; posted readings	Debate teams and positions assigned.
6	Oct 5	Debate: "Free Trade vs. Strategic Protection." Midterm review.	Ch. 1–7	Assignment 2. Trade Policy Brief. Debate.
7	Oct 12	**Midterm Exam (live on Zoom, camera on, AI-free).**	Ch. 1–7	
8	Oct 19	Trade and the Balance of Payments.	Ch. 9	Course project proposal.
9	Oct 26	Exchange Rates and Exchange Rate Systems.	Ch. 10	
10	Nov 2	Open Economy Macroeconomics.	Ch. 11	Assignment 3. Balance of Payments and Exchange Rates.
11	Nov 9	International Financial Crises.	Ch. 12	
12	Nov 16	Regional Issues: The United States and the European Union in the World Economy. Course project workshop.	Ch. 13, 14	
13	Nov 23	Regional Issues: East Asia, China, and India.	Ch. 16, 17	
14	Nov 30	Course Project Presentations.		Course project report and slides.
15	Dec 7	**Final Exam (live on Zoom, camera on, AI-free).**	Comprehensive	