Theory of International Trade (IE 407)

Instructors: Aparna Sawhney and Alokesh Barua

This course will cover the fundamentals of the classical and neo-classical trade theories, as well as analyses of trade policy interventions, gains from trade, domestic distortions, trade and technology, and the development of imperfect competition in trade. The study of the theoretical trade models will be supplemented with empirical literature.

This is a basic graduate level course and students are expected to have fundamental knowledge of microeconomic theory and mathematics. Students are advised to review thoroughly chapters 1-3 of R.N. Batra (1973) *Studies in the Pure theory of International Trade*, Macmillan.

Textbooks:

The modules and basic readings are outlined below. Additional readings will be given in class.

**Introduction: Evolution of trade and trade theories**
- World Trade Report 2013: pages 5-17.

**Module I: Trade theories** - Ricardo, Heckshcher-Ohlin, Stolper-Samuelson and Rybczynski Theorems. Empirics and Leontief’s Paradox, HOV model, Leamer’s and Trefler’s Theorem.
- Bhagwati-Panagariya-Srinivasan Chapters 1-6
- Feenstra Chapter 1-2

**Module II: Gains from Trade, Commercial Policy, and Economic Growth** – normative issues of welfare, policy interventions in terms of tariffs (Metzler paradox), taxes and subsidies. Immiserizing growth.
- Bhagwati-Panagariya-Srinivasan Chapters 12, 17-19, 29
- (Review Chapter 4-6 of Batra)
Module III: Market imperfections/ Distortions— sub-optimality of free trade equilibrium in presence of monopoly power in trade and domestic distortions.

- Bhagwati-Panagariya-Srinivasan Chapters 20-25

Module IV: Trade and Technology - Alternatives to the standard trade theories including the product cycle and technology gap models, intra-industry trade.


Module V: Imperfect Competition and Intra-Industry Trade - The rise of new theories of intra-industry trade under imperfect competition and firm heterogeneity.