

TEACHING GUIDE

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

GRADO EN ECONOMÍA (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Publication date: 05-07-2026



I.-Subject Identification

Type	OBLIGATORIA
Teaching period	3 course, 1Q semester
Nº of credits	6
Language in which the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

Introduction

This course provides an introduction to the analysis of international economic issues. It will provide basic tools, both theoretical and applied, to analyze the economic relations among countries. Students will examine the theoretical and empirical foundations of international trade, focusing on their role in international trade policy analysis and using an applied perspective.

The process of economic globalization, from both trade and finance perspectives, will be used in case studies and debate dynamics to explore the usefulness as well as the limitations of the theories and instruments examined in the course.

Methodology

The limited amount of time in class means that students must take it upon themselves to complete homework assignments and readings to understand the lectures. Students are expected to come to class having read all the assigned material before class meets, as lectures are intended to structure, discuss and summarize the material. They are a complement, not a substitute, for reading the material and doing your homework. Moreover, lecture notes and slides are only meant as a guide to the course but do not provide enough material to pass the course.

Therefore, the professor will present each topic, providing a list of the mandatory readings. During the lecture, the contents will be analyzed in a participative environment where students will have an active role, presenting concepts and debates, being asked and encouraged to ask questions related to the readings.

Class Policy

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. You are expected to attend class, to arrive on time and remain throughout the class period. I understand that occasionally situations arise that require you to leave early or arrive late; please let me know, as I consider it quite rude to arrive late or leave early during my lectures. You should keep in mind that as a member of this university you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all your academic duties. Students are required to read the student behavior code approved by the university as it will be applied in this class (http://www.urjc.es/images/Universidad/Presentacion/normativa/Normativa_conducta_academica_URJC.pdf).

Concerning cheating in exams, it simply isn't worth it, as you will be reported to the faculty authorities besides failing the exam (grade zero). Thus, I strongly recommend you behave with integrity and honesty in class and exams. Ensure that your essays and exam answers are your own work and that you don't commit plagiarism (I personally have a very low tolerance for cheating and plagiarism).

III.-Learning outcomes



CI1. Capacidad de analizar, sintetizar y resumir diferentes fuentes de información de forma crítica
 CT01. Ability to analyse and synthesise
 CT06. Ability to analyse and search for information from different sources
 CT07. Ability to solve problems
 CT08. Ability to make decisions
 CT10. Interdisciplinary teamwork
 CT13. Commitment to values in the workplace
 CT20. Environmental and social awareness
 CB02 . That students are able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have the skills that are typically demonstrated through the preparation and defense of arguments and problem solving within their field of study.
 CB03 . That students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) to express judgments that include a reflection on relevant topics related to social, scientific or ethical areas.
 CB04 . That students are able to transmit information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialized and non-specialized audience.
 CB05 . That students have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further studies with a considerable degree of autonomy.
 CE01. Ability to put knowledge of economics into practice
 CE02. Information search and research skills
 CE04. Ability to communicate economic issues
 CE05. Understanding of the laws governing economic activity
 CE06. Ability to learn and apply the different qualitative techniques used in economics
 CE07. Understanding and appraisal of economic contingencies
 CE09. Understanding of how markets work
 CE10. Understanding of economic policy objectives and instruments
 CE11. Understanding how the public sector of an economy works
 CE17. Knowledge of the Spanish economic situation and environment within the European Union
 CE18. Analysis of international economic growth
 CE19. Forecasting with different economic variables

- Key for degrees not adapted to RD 822/21: **CB** - basic competences, **CG** - generic competences, **CE** - specific competences, **CT** - transversal competences.
- Key for degrees adapted to RD 822/21: **CON** - knowledge, **COM** - competences, **HAB** - skills.



IV.-Contents

IV.A.-Syllabus

SECTION I. Introduction to International Economics.

- TOPIC 1: Introduction.
- TOPIC 2: National Accounting and Balance of Payments.

SECTION II. Theories of International Trade.

- TOPIC 3: Theories of International Trade.

SECTION III. Trade Policies and Actors in the International Economy.

- TOPIC 4: Tariff Theory.
- TOPIC 5: Economic Integration.
- TOPIC 6: New Geography of the International Economy.

SECTION IV. International Financial Integration and Exchange Rates.

- TOPIC 7: International Financial Integration and Exchange Rates.

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Lectures	Readings recommended by the professor for each topic
Practical sessions	Team work, exercises, case studies and debates
Test and/or exams	Evaluation using different type of activities/exams
Theoretical sessions	Lectures by the professor for each topic
Academic tutorials	Academic advising and office hours

V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	44
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	14
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	2
Academic tutorials	38
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	10
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	21
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	21
Preparation for tests and/or exams	30
Total student workload	180

VI.-Methodology and academic programme		
Type	Period	Content
Group work	Week 2 to Week 14	Study groups will analyze and present practical cases and exercises. They will also engage in debate activities.
Academic tutorials	Week 1 to Week 15	Students can ask for academic advice both at class and through Teams.
Theoretical sessions	Week 1 to Week 14	Lectures by the professor.
Practical sessions	Week 2 to Week 10	Examples and practical applications of the concepts.



VII.-Assessment methods

The general assessment method is continuous as established in the *Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes* of Rey Juan Carlos University.

All the assessment systems established in the degree report must be employed, except for those that have a minimum weight of 0%, which can be used by professors in the academic years they consider relevant. Each assessment system may be applied through one or more assessment activities, consistent with the system. No assessment activity can exceed individually 60% of the overall grade for the subject.

The sum of non re-evaluable activities cannot exceed 40% of the overall grade for the subject and, in general, should not have an established minimum grade (except for practical activities in which, strictly speaking, the conditions of the ordinary call cannot be reproduced in the extraordinary call).

Those students who do not manage to pass the subject in the ordinary call, or do not attend this first call, may attend the extraordinary call only for failed re-evaluable assessment activities.

The distribution and characteristics of the assessment activities are described below.

VII.A.-Description and weight of the assessment activities

REGULAR ASSESSMENT

All students must take a **FINAL EXAM** (reassessable activity) that will cover the entire course syllabus. The grade for this **exam will constitute 60% of the final grade for this course**. This test will be held on the official scheduled date. A **minimum grade of four (4) points** will be required for this activity.

All students must complete at **least two non-reassessable activities** to be defined by the instructor (assignments, readings, practical exercises, tests, participation in debates, presentations, etc.). The grade for these activities will constitute **40% of the final grade for this course**. The requirement for in-person attendance for these activities will depend on their nature. Consequently, this must be defined by the instructor on the first day of class. These activities will not have a minimum grade requirement. In the event that a student does not submit a specific activity, their grade for that activity will be zero (0) points; however, they may continue with the evaluation process.

The activities designated as non-reassessable are justified as such because they aim to evaluate student progress in specific competencies throughout the course, fostering active participation and continuous collaborative learning. For this reason, they cannot be effectively applied in an individual reassessment outside the regular classroom dynamics, such as in the extraordinary examination period.

EXTRAORDINARY ASSESSMENT

In this examination session, students will only be evaluated on the reassessable activities previously described, while maintaining the grades from the non-reassessable activities. Consequently, students who must appear for this examination session will take a **FINAL EXAM** that will cover the entire course syllabus. The grade for this exam will constitute 60% of the final grade for the course in this session. This grade will be added to the grade obtained in the non-reassessable activities that the student completed during the regular assessment. The sum of both will constitute 100% of their grade in this session. This test will be held on the official scheduled date and will be **IN-PERSON**. A minimum grade may be required for this activity.

EARLY EXAMINATION SESSION

Given the characteristics of the course and the early examination session, the evaluation of students who request it will be conducted through an in-person theoretical-practical test that covers all the course content, on the official date for said session. The grade required to pass the course in the early examination session must be equal to or higher than 5 points out of 10.

VII.B. Assessment of students with academic exemption from class attendance



Having Academic Exemption from Class Attendance (DAAC) does not imply that students are automatically exempt from participating in the continuous assessment activities or in the training activities of compulsory attendance as established in the teaching guide. Once the exemption has been granted, students must contact the subject's teaching staff, who will propose the adaptations he/she may consider relevant, as long as they guarantee the acquisition and adequate assessment of the learning goals established. Students must maintain adequate communication with the teaching staff so that they may provide information on the dates for training and assessment activities, if these are not established in the programme and available for students at the time of achieving the exemption.

Subject with possibility of academic exemption: Yes.

VII.C. Review of assessment activities

In accordance with the Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of Rey Juan Carlos University.

VII.D.-Students with a disability or special educational needs

In order to guarantee equal opportunities, non-discrimination, universal accessibility and academic success, students with disabilities or especial education needs may request curricular adaptations to follow their studies. These adaptations will be provided by the Unit of Attention to People with Disabilities of Rey Juan Carlos University, in accordance with the regulation which regulates the service for the Attention of People with Disabilities at the University. This Unit will issue a report for curricular adaptations, so that students with disabilities or special education needs must contact the service (at e-mail discapacidad.programa@urjc.es) in order to provide relevant information for different educational alternatives.

VII.E.-Academic behaviour, academic integrity and honesty

Rey Juan Carlos University is fully committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, so studying at the URJC means assuming and subscribing to the values of integrity and academic honesty set out in the University's Ethical Code. To support this process, the University has Rey Juan Carlos University's Academic Conduct Regulation as well as different tools (anti-plagiarism, supervision...) that offer a collective guarantee for the full development of these essential values.



VIII.-Teaching resources and materials

Basic bibliography

Paul R. Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld, and Marc J. Melitz (2015): International Economics: Theory and Policy, 10th edition, Addison-Wesley, 2015

Salvatore, Dominick (2013): International Economics, 11th edition, Wiley, 2013.

Consultation bibliography

Feenstra, R. and Taylor, A. (2016). International Economics, 4th edition, Worth, 2016.

Romero-Ania, A. (2021). International Economics Handbook. Ommpress, Madrid.

IX.-Professors

Name and surname	ROSA BELÉN CASTRO NÚÑEZ
E-mail address	belen.castro@urjc.es
Department	Economía Aplicada I e Historia e Instituciones Económicas
Campus	Madrid - Quintana
Category	Titular de Universidad
Academic degree	Doctor
Person responsible for the subject	Yes
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorías póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Number of quinquennia	4
Number of sexennia	1
No. of positive evaluations by Docentia	4