JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY
Jönköping International Business School

COURSE SYLLABUS

International Economics Principles, 5 credits

International Economics Principles, 5 högskolepoäng

Course Code:	J1IEPS	Education Cycle:	First-cycle level
Confirmed:	Oct 07, 2026	Disciplinary domain:	Social sciences (75%) and Natural sciences (25%)
Valid From:	Jan 18, 2027	Subject group:	Economics
		Specialised in:	G1F First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
		Main field of study:	Economics

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course you will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

1.1 Explain central theories, frameworks, and concepts from business administration and/or economics and apply these to clearly defined problems or cases.

1.3 Explain and analyse the impact of international differences and internationalisation on business and/or economic activities.

Skills and Abilities

2.4 Apply appropriate tools, techniques, or models to analyse problems and formulate informed recommendations, recognising their opportunities and limitations

Judgement and Approach

4.1 Evaluate decisions and practices from legal, ethical, and/or sustainability perspectives.

Content

This course introduces you to the core principles of international economics, focusing on how trade, finance, and policy connect economies across the world. You will explore the gains from trade, the determinants of trade patterns, and the effects of tariffs, quotas, and other trade policies on firms and consumers.

The course also introduces exchange rate determination, international monetary systems, and net-export dynamics, helping you understand how economic decisions in one country affect others through global markets.

The course emphasises how international linkages shape business conditions, competitiveness, and policy choices. You will learn to interpret key macroeconomic relationships and analyse real-world developments such as currency fluctuations and financial crises. Through problem-solving exercises, you will apply economic reasoning to evaluate global challenges and policy responses and recognise both the strengths and the limitations of the models you use.

By the end of the course, you will have developed a clear understanding of how international trade and finance interact with policymaking. You will be able to interpret global economic trends and their implications for firms, workers, and policy. The knowledge gained in this course complements your broader studies in international business and economics, providing the context needed to navigate an interconnected global economy. The international composition of the class is used throughout, with seminar work organised to bring contrasting national contexts together.

Connection to Research

The course is grounded in the research literature of international economics. In the lectures, theoretical models are presented together with the empirical research that tests them, so that you see how economists establish what is known about trade flows, exporting firms, and the effects of international competition on regional labor markets.

Connection to Practice

In this course, you work with the sources and formats used outside the university. You will build analyses from primary statistical sources on trade, exchange rates, and macroeconomic performance, and communicate your conclusions in concise written forms such as a policy brief with a clear recommendation. The seminar tasks are organised around real policy decisions, and the analytical and communication skills you develop are directly relevant to work in export-facing firms, public administration, and economic policy analysis.

Connection to Ethics, Responsibility, Sustainability (ERS)

Ethics, responsibility, and sustainability are integrated through the central analytical question of the course: trade and macroeconomic policy generate aggregate gains alongside concentrated losses. You will learn to identify who gains and who loses a given policy, and then to address what the analysis does not settle, namely whose interests should count and how adjustment and responsibility should be allocated. These perspectives are applied in your course of work. In the policy brief, you take a position and must state who bears the cost of your recommendation, and you will consider the environmental and labor standards embedded in production that crosses borders.

Type of Instruction

The course is taught on campus through lectures and seminars and includes both individual and group work. Attendance is expected at scheduled sessions, and participation in seminar activities is compulsory as specified in the course guide.

Language of instruction is English.

Entry Requirements

General entry requirements and passed at least 30 ECTS in first-cycle courses in Business Administration or Economics and Proof of English proficiency is required.

Examination and Grades

The course is graded A, B, C, D, E, FX or F.

The ILOs are assessed through the following examination form:

Individual written exam (ILOs: 1.1, 1.3, 2.4, 4.1), representing 3.5 credits. On-campus digital examination covering the whole course, combining multiple-choice and numerical questions with short analytical responses and an essay question. Questions are case based.

Individual written assignments (ILOs: 2.4, 4.1), representing 1.5 credits, graded Pass/Fail. These are created during the on-campus seminars, based on group work, but handed in individually. Participation and submission for at least three of the four individual assignments is required for a pass.

All parts of the compulsory examination in the course must receive a passing grade before a final grade can be set. Grades are set in accordance with JIBS grading policy.

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Individual written exam	3.5 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Individual written assignments	1.5 credits	G/U

Course Evaluation

The course evaluation is important for the continuous improvement of JIBS' courses and degree programmes. The examiner is responsible for ensuring that each course is evaluated, but as a student you are essential in this process. We rely on your input to understand how we can improve. At the outset of a course the student representatives are identified. In the middle of the course there should be an opportunity for the student representatives (or a larger group of students) to share reflections on how the course is progressing. At the end of the course, you will get a course evaluation survey to fill in. The examiner will then host a debrief meeting with the student representatives to discuss improvement opportunities, based on the course evaluation data and comments.

Other Information

As a JIBS student, you are expected to maintain strong academic integrity. You must act within the boundaries of academic rules and expectations relating to all types of teaching and examination.

Copying someone else's work is a particularly serious offence and can lead to disciplinary action. When you use someone else's work without proper citation or transparency about where it came from, you are committing plagiarism. Cutting and pasting without clearly acknowledging the original source is a textbook example of plagiarism.

You must also act responsibly when using Generative AI tools. Acting responsibly includes staying informed about the school's AI-policy, understanding what rules apply in each course, and properly declaring or disclaiming any use of generative AI. You are accountable for all content you submit, including AI-assisted material. Using AI without disclosure or beyond what is allowed in a course is a violation of academic integrity and will be subject to the same academic consequences as other forms of misconduct, which may include failing the assignment, failing the course, or further disciplinary action according to school policy.

The Jönköping University library offers online and in-person support for assisting you in identifying relevant sources, using and referencing literature, and creating texts that meet academic standards and integrity.

Other forms of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) adding your name to a project you did not contribute to (or allowing someone to add their name), cheating during an examination, helping other students to cheat or submitting other students' work as your own, and using non-allowed electronic equipment during an examination. All such actions may result in disciplinary measures.

Course Literature

Please note that the course literature may be revised up to eight weeks before the start of the course.

Krugman, P. R., Obstfeld, M., & Melitz, M. J. International Economics: Theory and Policy (latest edition). Pearson.

Additional articles, policy documents, and statistical sources are made available via Canvas.