I. Basic Information: The class will meet once a week at a time to be determined.
Instructor: Dr. Wes Peterson, 207b Filley (0922), 402-472-7871, epeterson1@unl.edu

II. Course Description: This course is for PhD students who have completed the PhD economic theory courses and graduate courses in international trade and finance. It is structured as a seminar in which students will read theoretical and applied works on international trade in general and agricultural trade in particular.

The core of the seminar will be to read and discuss Advanced International Trade by Robert Feenstra. The book has eleven chapters each of which will be discussed in turn during the semester. In addition, several journal articles related to the themes raised in the chapter under discussion and, where possible, focusing on agricultural trade will be assigned. Class discussions will be led by students with some guidance from the instructor.

In addition to readings and discussion, there will be a midterm exam and a written literature review to be submitted toward the end of the semester. For the literature review, students will choose a topic of interest, gather a substantial set of relevant literature and write a critical review of the literature that might form the basis for a more extensive research project. The instructor will examine the literature reviews closely for writing style and documentation. The literature reviews should be written in the students’ own words (no plagiarism) and include appropriate documentation and other scholarly conventions. Literature reviews that do not meet accepted standards for professional writing will have to be revised and resubmitted. The midterm exam will account for 30% of the grade and the literature review for the remaining 70%.

COURSE OUTLINE

First Session: Introduction to the course

Second Session: Feenstra Chapter 1 (Two-Sector Models)


Third Session: Feenstra Chapter 2 (The Heckscher-Ohlin Model)


**Fourth Session**: Feenstra Chapter 3 (Many Goods and Factors)


**Fifth Session**: Feenstra Chapter 4 (Intermediate Inputs and Wages)


**Sixth Session**: Feenstra Chapter 5 (Increasing Returns and the Gravity Equation)


**Seventh Session**: Midterm Exam

**Eighth Session**: Feenstra Chapter 6 (Gains from Trade and Regional Agreements)


**Ninth Session**: Feenstra Chapter 7 (Import Tariffs and Dumping)


**Tenth Session**: Feenstra Chapter 8 (Import Quotas and Export Subsidies)


**Eleventh Session**: Feenstra Chapter 9 (Political Economy of Trade)


**Twelfth Session**: Feenstra Chapter 10 (Trade and Endogenous Growth)


Thirteenth Session: Feenstra Chapter 11 (Multinationals and Organization of the Firm)


Fourteenth Session: Student presentations of their literature reviews.

Fifteenth Session: Summary and conclusion