International Economics
Development Economics

Academic year 2019-2020

Advanced International Trade B: Topics in International Trade

EI088 - Printemps - 3 ECTS

Tuesdays  
1) 18/02 16:15-20:00 P1-701
2) 27/02 16:15-20:00 P1-701
3) 04/03 14:15-18:00 P1-701
4) 09/03 08:15-10:00 P1-701

Course Description

This course discusses recent cutting-edge research on empirical international trade, in a reading-seminar format. This first part will focus on four main topics of international trade research: firm heterogeneity, firm performance, firm organization, global value chains and quality issues. Strong emphasis is put into in-class participation through presentations and discussions of the various topics. The objective is to get a comprehensive knowledge of modern empirical international trade and drive students to acquire the necessary expertise to be able to carry out a high-quality research project in the field of international trade.

Syllabus

1. Pre-requisites

PhD level International Trade A is a pre-requisite for this course, as well as a good understanding of the topics in a graduate level general econometrics course.

2. Evaluation

There are two components to the evaluation of this course (please note that the evaluation method for this module is subject to revision, based on the number of students enrolled in the course – final details will be given in lecture 2 or 3).
1. **In class presentations**: Each student will deliver a number of approximately 45 minutes presentations on designated papers. Papers will be randomly allocated to presenters. All relevant technical aspects of the paper need to be addressed, with the goal of the audience gaining full understanding of the paper in: (i) its framing in the literature; (ii) the model and estimation strategy, where applicable; (iii) the econometric approach, implementation and challenges, where applicable; (iv) the result and main conclusions; (v) limitations and relevant caveats. All presentations taken together account for 50% of the course overall mark.

2. **Referee report**: Students will write a complete referee report on an assigned paper and will present in class the report for a presentation of about 20 minutes. There is no fixed format for it, but it should include a summary of the paper and a list of the critical points clearly explained together with suggestions on how to solve them. This will account for 50% of the course overall mark.

*Please, observe the Institute’s rules on plagiarism. All submission will be evaluated using software-based plagiarism detection and a grade of zero will be awarded should the result of this examination be positive.*

3. **Reading list**

The following is the tentative list of topics and readings to be covered and it is subject to change.

1. **Firms' Heterogeneity and International Trade**


   Hottman, C., Redding, S., and Weinstein, D. (2016). Quantifying the Sources of Firm’s Heterogeneity. QJE.

2. **Firm performance**


3. Firm organization & GVC


4. Quality


Crozet et al. (REStud, 2012): The quality of French wine (basic framework from Baldwin and Harrigan, 2011)

Verhoogen (QJE, 2008): Product quality and wage inequality (non-homothetic preferences and monopolistic competition)

