

# History of International Trade

An Immersive Virtual Reality Learning Experience  
2011-2012

## Course Description

This course provides the student with a perspective of international trade through the multiple lenses of time, geography, and the social-political systems that created both the fundamental demand and then the supply. Beginning with ancient civilizations and ending with contemporary globalization, this perspective is essential groundwork for the mastery of international business and international relations. This course may be adapted for graduate or undergraduate levels.

## Materials

Readings, assignments, problems and assessments are integrated into the courseware. Any additional materials will be assigned by the instructor at the start or during the course.

## Course Outline & Assignments

Assignments will change from time to time as new resources become available, contemporary events have bearing on the topics, or the social, legal, or economic environments change.

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE AND THE LEARNING CONTEXT (Module One, 4-6 hours)**

- How to Use the Course Materials
- Course Contents
- Pre-Test
- Prominent Trade Theories
- Factors that Stimulate International Trade
- Factors that Inhibit International Trade
- How to Identify and Use Important Resources

### **AN OVERVIEW OF TRADE IN THE EARLY 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY (Module Two, 4-6 hours)**

- Size, Scope and Impact of International Trade
- Major Trading Partners with the United States
- Size, Scope and Impact of Direct Foreign Investment

### **TRADE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD (Module Three, 4-6 hours)**

- Geography and Population Patterns
- Trade Patterns of the Islamic Caliphates
- Trade Patterns of the Indian Kingdoms
- Trade Patterns of the Viking Kingdoms
- Trade Patterns of the Byzantine Empire
- Trade Patterns of the Roman Empire
- Trade Patterns of the Chinese Dynasties

### **TRADE FROM 1500 TO 2000 A.D. (Module Four, 4-6 hours)**

- Impact on Trade of the Collapse of the Roman Empire
- Influence of The Netherlands on Free Trade
- Scope and Impact of Mercantilism

- Influence of Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations
- Scope and Impact of Trade by the British Empire
- Impact of Protectionism and Tariff Policies
- Impact of the Great Depression on Trade
- Influence of Japanese and German Trade
- Impact of China on World Trade
- Scope and Impact of Oil Imports and Exports
- Impact of Trade Blocs and Agreements

#### **CONTEMPORARY TRADE ISSUES (Module Five, 4-6 hours)**

- How Trade Organizations Influence International Trade
- How Governments Affect Trade
- How Foreign Exchange Affects Trade
- How Language and Culture Affect Trade
- Arguments for and Against Free Trade
- How Technology Affects International Trade
- How Individual Companies Get Involved in International Business

#### **COURSE REVIEW AND EXAM**

##### **Recommended Resources and Readings**

- The Free Management Library  
<http://www.managementhelp.org/>
- MBA Library  
[http://www.businessbookmall.com/MBA%20Internet%20Library.htm#Free\\_MBA\\_Prerequisites\\_Books](http://www.businessbookmall.com/MBA%20Internet%20Library.htm#Free_MBA_Prerequisites_Books)
- An International Business & Trade Glossary for students in this course -  
<http://management.about.com/cs/begintomanage/l/blglossary.htm>
- Global Edge  
<http://globaledge.msu.edu/ibrd/glossary.asp?Index=a>
- [An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations.](#) by Adam Smith
- [A Brief History of International Trade Policy,](#) by Douglas A. Irwin
- [Creating a World Economy: Merchant Capital, Colonialism, and World Trade, 1400-1825](#) by Alan K. Smith.
- [The Establishment of the European Hegemony, 1415-1715: Trade and Exploration in the Age of the Renaissance](#) by J. H. Parry.
- [Dutch Primacy in World Trade, 1585-1740](#) by Jonathan I. Israel.
- [Born with a 'Silver Spoon': The Origin of World Trade in 1571, in Journal of World History](#) by Dennis O. Flynn, Arturo Giraldez.

- [Trade in the Eastern Seas, 1793-1813](#) by C. Northcote Parkinson.
- [Trade and State in the Arabian Seas: A Survey from the Fifteenth to the Eighteenth Century, in Journal of World History](#) by R. J. Barendse.
- [English Overseas Trade during the Centuries of Emergence: Studies in Some Modern Origins of the English-Speaking World](#) by G. D. Ramsay.
- [Studies in British Overseas Trade, 1870-1914](#) by S. B. Saul.
- [Trade: The Engine of Growth in East Asia](#) by Peter C. Y. Chow, Mitchell H. Kellman.
- [Facing West: Americans and the Opening of the Pacific](#) by John Curtis Perry.
- [Opening America's Market: U.S. Foreign Trade Policy since 1776](#) by Alfred E. Eckes, Jr.
- [The Political Economy of Spanish America in the Age of Revolution, 1750-1850](#) by Kenneth J. Andrien, Lyman L. Johnson.
- [The Link That Kept the Philippines Spanish: Mexican Merchant Interests and the Manila Trade, 1571-1815, in Journal of World History](#) by Katharine Bjork.
- [Trading Partners: Australia and Asia, 1790-1993](#) by Sandra Tweedie.
- [Landlords and Strangers: Ecology, Society, and Trade in Western Africa, 1000-1630](#) by George E. Brooks.
- [Slaves, Spices, and Ivory in Zanzibar: Integration of an East African Commercial Empire into the World Economy, 1770-1873](#) by Abdul Sheriff.
- [Trade in the Year 1000: By sea and by land, a global economy is born](#) by Robert Kemp, Doug Stern, Margaret Loftus and Barbra Murray
- [Economic Sophisms](#) by Bastiat, Frédéric
- [Free Trade Today](#) by Bhagwati, Jagdish
- [Against the Tide: An Intellectual History of Free Trade](#) by Irwin, Douglas A.
- [Comparative Advantage in International Trade](#). by Maneschi, Andrea
- [Transparency International](#)
- [International Business Resource Connection](#)
- [International Business Resource Connection](#)