



## GRADUATE SCHOOL

### **GM1210 International Business and Trade in a Historical Perspective, 7.5 credits**

Internationellt företagande och handel i historiskt perspektiv, 7,5 högskolepoäng  
*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Graduate School on 2017-11-27 and was last revised on 2021-03-23 to be valid from 2021-08-29, autumn semester of 2021.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* Graduate School

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course International Business and Trade in a Historical Perspective is a course within the Master of Science programmes at the Graduate School, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg.

#### *Main field of studies*

International Business and Trade

#### *Specialization*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

To be eligible for the course International Business and Trade in a Historical Perspective the participant must fulfil the entrance qualifications for one of the Master of Science programmes at the Graduate School.

#### **Learning outcomes**

On successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. discuss the importance of world trade for economic development and growth over the world

2. show understanding of the process of corporate change for the industrial revolution to the 21st century
3. analyse the importance of different competitive and judicial regimes in the process of international business and trade.

The course is sustainability-focused, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's confirmed sustainability criteria. The content also constitutes the course's main focus.

### **Course content**

The objective of this course is to discuss the development of world trade from early modern times until today.

Firstly, the historical development of world trade and trade policies are discussed in terms of causes and effects of international trade. A central aspect is the discussion of the importance of trade for growth and distribution of wealth over the world. The role of trade for countries in the less industrialised world is compared to its role for the industrialised world. Linked to this, is the discussion of whether protectionism or free trade has been the best way to promote economic development.

Secondly, the course relates to the development of "big business". The aim is to achieve an understanding for the present situation of multinational companies by studying their historical development. The studies start with how multi-national companies were formed. Multinationals have sometimes been accused of contributing to social injustice in countries in the third world. In the industrialised world they are accused of disrupting competition. The effects of big business establishment are to a large extent decided by how the activities are regulated. The national state can build institutions and regulate business activities by for example introducing tariffs, different forms of taxation, regulation of wages and so on. An important issue is to study under what circumstances multinational companies are contributing to growth and redistribution and when they are not.

### **Form of teaching**

Lectures and seminars.

*Language of instruction:* English

**Assessment**

Learning outcomes 1-3 are assessed through written individual assignments (papers), and oral presentations.

Students present and discuss assignments at mandatory seminars. If the course coordinator agrees that the reason for absence or non-submission of compulsory elements is valid, then the missing elements can be replaced with alternative assignments.

Individual assignments shall be written individually, cooperation in formulating text, tables, figures etc. is not allowed.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

The number of examinations is limited to five.

**Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Excellent (A), Very good (B), Good (C), Satisfactory (D), Sufficient (E) and Fail (F).

Pass is required on all examination forms. The grade (A-E) corresponds to the total score a student obtains on the written individual assignments and presentations. To receive a pass grade (A-E)  $\geq 50\%$  points is required. The scale is tied to fixed score intervals:

A: 85-100%

B: 75-84%

C: 68-74%

D: 60-67%

E: 50-59%

F:  $<50\%$

**Course evaluation**

The course will be evaluated upon completion. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.