COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
International Economics	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: doc. dr. Rasa Pušinaitė-Gelgotė **Other: assist. Dr. Miglė Sarvutytė-Gailiūnienė**	Kaunas faculty Institute of Languages, Literature and Translation Studies ☐ Institute of Social Sciences and Applied Informatics ☒

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First ☒ Second ☐	Compulsory Course ☒ Optional Couse ☐ Course Unit (Module) of the General University Studies ☐ Course Unit (Module) of Individual Studies ☐ Interdisciplinary Studies Course Unit (Module) ☐

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Classroom	Spring	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: microeconomics, macroeconomics	**Co-requisites (if relevant):**

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	130	48	82

Purpose of the course unit		
To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of international economics, encompassing the theories of international trade, trade policy instruments, and the processes of economic globalization, while developing their ability to critically evaluate global economic developments and make informed decisions in an international economic environment.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	**Teaching and learning methods**	**Assessment methods**
Will be able to plan the stages of activities and responsibly set priorities in order to achieve operational goals. (1.2)	Problem-based learning; group project.	Exam, midterm exam, group project assessment.
Will be able to independently collect, summarize, and analyze information on international economics issues from various sources, using information technologies. (2.1)	Individual assignments, collaborative group project work, case study analysis, and problem-based learning.	Assessment of the group project, assessment of individual tasks.
Will be able to explain the principles of international economics and integrate knowledge across areas of professional activity. (4.1)	Lecture; problem-based learning; investigative methods (information searching, literature studies).	Examination, colloquium, assessment of individual assignments, assessment of a group project.
Will be able to understand the international macroeconomic environment and assess its impact on	Lecture; problem-based learning; investigative methods (information searching, literature studies).	Examination, colloquium, assessment of individual

organizational activities, while anticipating potential consequences. (5.2)		assignments, assessment of a group project.
Will be able to independently collect, systematize, and process statistical data reflecting the state of the international economy. (6.1)	Lecture; problem-based learning; case analysis.	Examination, colloquium, assessment of individual assignments, assessment of a group project.

Content	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	**Contact hours, total**	**Individual work**	**Tasks for individual work**
0. **Introductory lecture:** course overview and presentation of general course guidelines.			1				**1**		
1. **Introduction to International Economics:** Scope of international economics, globalization, and economic interdependence.	2		1				**3**	**4**	Information retrieval, reading scientific literature, and preparation for group discussions. Readings: Husted, S., et al., pp.24–32; Bernatonytė, D., pp.9–32.
2. **Absolute and Comparative Advantage**: Adam Smith's theory of absolute advantage; David Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage.	2		1				**3**	**4**	Completion of practical assignments and reading of academic literature. Readings: Pugel, T. A., pp.35–43; Bernatonytė, D., pp.41–62.
3. **Winners and Losers from International Trade:** The Heckscher–Ohlin Model: Factor endowments and trade patterns; income distribution effects of trade.	3		2				**5**	**4**	Information retrieval and reading scientific literature. Readings: Pugel, T. A., pp.69–86; Bernatonytė, D., pp. 73–79.
4. **Alternative Theories of International Trade**: New Trade Theory; Product Life-Cycle Theory; Strategic Trade Theory.	2		1				**3**	**4**	Information retrieval and reading scientific literature. Readings: Pugel, T.A., pp.91–104.
5. **Economic Growth and International Trade:** Trade as a driver of economic growth; the impact of economic growth on trade patterns.	2		1				**3**	**2**	Information retrieval and reading scientific literature. Readings: Pugel, T. A., pp.112–126.
6. **Trade Policy. Tariffs**: Economic effects of tariffs; welfare analysis of trade restrictions.	3		1				**4**	**4**	Information retrieval and reading scientific literature. Readings: Pugel, T. A., pp.133–148, or Husted, S., et al., pp.136–158; Bernatonytė, D., pp.291–343.
7. **Trade policy. Non-tariff barriers:** Import quotas, voluntary export	2		1				**3**	**5**	Information retrieval and reading scientific literature. Readings:

restraints, technical barriers, and administrative rules.									Pugel, T. A., pp.153–173, or Husted, S., et al., pp.161–183; Bernatonytė, D., pp.357–388.
8. **Trade Policy. Arguments for Protectionism**: The infant industry argument; the national security argument; strategic trade protection.	3		1				**4**	**5**	Information retrieval and reading scientific literature. Readings: Pugel, T. A., pp.185–206.
9. **Trade Policy. Export Promotion**: Export subsidies; export-oriented development strategies.	2		1				**3**	**5**	Information search, reading of academic literature. Pugel Th. A., pp.217–234; Husted S. et al., pp.256–270.
10. **Regional Trade Agreements and Trade Blocs**: Free trade areas; customs unions; stages of economic integration.	2		1				**3**	**5**	Information search, reading of scientific literature. Pugel Th. A., pp.247–254
11. **International Trade and the Environment**: Trade and sustainable development; environmental regulation and competitiveness.	2		1				**3**	**5**	Information search, reading of scientific literature. Pugel Th. A., pp.273–294
12. **International Mobility of Factors of Production**: International labor migration; foreign direct investment (FDI); international capital flows.	2		1				**3**	**5**	Information search, reading of academic literature. Pugel Th. A., pp.341–365
13. **International Exchange and Global Markets**: International market transactions; global economic interactions	3		1				**4**	**5**	Information search, reading of academic literature. Pugel Th. A., pp.377–392 Husted S. et al., pp.272–284.
14. **Government Policy in International Markets**: State intervention in international trade; industrial and competitiveness policies; managing globalization and international economic challenges.	2		1				**3**	**5**	Information search, reading of academic literature. Pugel Th. A., pp.480–496.
Preparation for the midterm exam.								**10**	Preparation for the midterm exam.
Exam preparation.								**10**	Exam preparation.
Total	**32**		**16**				**48**	**82**	
Note: Up to 4 contact hours may be replaced by guest lectures given by social partners or educational visits to social partner organisations.									

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Midterm assessment: written test (T)	25 %	On the scheduled date	The written assessment consists of *20 open-ended and closed-ended questions*, each worth 0.5 points (10 points total). *Open-ended questions* are graded on the following scale: 0.5 points: Excellent or good understanding and analytical skills; minor errors are permissible. 0.25 points: Satisfactory understanding and skills; errors are present, but minimum requirements are met. 0 points: Minimum requirements are not met. *Closed-ended questions* are single-choice items with several options. Selecting the correct answer earns 0.5 points; an incorrect answer earns 0 points.

Work during seminars: individual and group tasks (SW)	20 %	During the semester	Assessment Criteria (Grading Scale) 10 points: Questions are answered comprehensively; demonstrates synthesized knowledge, incorporates insights from theoretical literature, and shows an ability to think critically. 9 points: The essence of the questions is addressed; demonstrates synthesized knowledge and explains underlying causes. 8 points: Demonstrates relational knowledge and understanding: key components are connected and integrated into a coherent whole. 7 points: Demonstrates multi-structural knowledge: focuses on several important aspects, though not all are appropriately interconnected. 6 points: Demonstrates multi-structural knowledge: focuses on several important aspects, but these are not interconnected. 5 points: Demonstrates uni-structural knowledge: responses focus on a single aspect and rely on listing facts. 1–4 points: Fails to meet minimum requirements; uses inappropriate or incorrect facts; questions are answered incorrectly or left unanswered.
Project (P)	30 %	During the semester	Four specific concepts for project work: *Market Entry and Export Strategy Project:* Working in teams, students select a domestic company and develop a comprehensive market-entry strategy for a target foreign market, evaluating trade barriers, tariff regimes, regional trade agreements, and export promotion instruments. *Trade Policy Impact Assessment:* Students analyze a contemporary trade dispute or protectionist measure (e.g., tariffs, quotas, or environmental border adjustments), conducting a welfare analysis to identify economic winners and losers across domestic and global markets. *FDI Attraction Pitch:* Acting as national investment promotion agencies, student teams compete to attract a multinational enterprise by evaluating factor endowments, labor mobility, environmental regulations, and government industrial policies. *Global Supply Chain and Sustainability Audit:* Students examine a selected global industry to evaluate how environmental regulations and sustainability standards reshape trade patterns, production costs, and international competitiveness. Team Research Project: Preparation and presentation of an applied international economics project (e.g., export market-entry strategy or trade policy impact analysis), including data collection and systematization, peer review and feedback, and defense during seminars. *Project Assessment and Grading CriteriaProject Conditions and Evaluation Breakdown* (Total: 10 points): Project (Structure, Logic, Calculations, Justification): Maximum 6 points. Presentation: Maximum 2 points. Answering Questions: Maximum 1 point. Acting as an Opponent: Maximum 1 point. Note: Projects are prepared by groups of students. The final individual grade may vary based on individual contribution and peer evaluation.
Examination – written test (E)	25 %	During the exam session, at the	The written assessment consists of *20 open-ended and closed-ended questions*, each worth 0.5 points (10 points total). *Open-ended questions* are graded on the following scale:

		scheduled time.	0.5 points: Excellent or good understanding and analytical skills; minor errors are permissible. 0.25 points: Satisfactory understanding and skills; errors are present, but minimum requirements are met. 0 points: Minimum requirements are not met. *Closed-ended questions* are single-choice items with several options. Selecting the correct answer earns 0.5 points; an incorrect answer earns 0 points.

REGARDING THE EXTERNAL EXAMINATION OF THE COURSE UNIT

Mark ☒					If permitted, please provide the conditions
Not permitted	☐	**Permitted**	☒		For external students, the final grade is calculated based on the following requirements and components: Individual Assignments (20%): Practical assignments must be submitted 2 weeks before the exam. Project (30%): The project must be submitted 2 weeks before the exam. Exam (50%): Held on an agreed-upon date.

REGARDING THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (GenAI) TOOLS (SUCH AS "CHATGPT", ETC.) WHEN STUDYING THE COURSE UNIT

Mark ☒				If permitted, please provide the conditions
Not permitted	☐	**Permitted**	☒	Example: "GenAI may only be used if the lecturer specifies that a particular assignment may be completed using GenAI; otherwise, **it will not be graded**. If the use of GenAI tools is permitted for completing assignments, the citation requirements set forth in the Guidelines for the Use of Artificial Intelligence at Vilnius University must be strictly followed."

REGARDING ACADEMIC PROGRESS

A student who (1) **throughout the semester consistently** fails to demonstrate **progress in achieving the expected learning outcomes of a subject (module)** during the practical classes (seminars, exercises, laboratory work, etc.) and (2) fails to complete all interim assessment requirements and tasks within the time specified in the course description, is not allowed to participate in the examination session.

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
Sawyer, W.Ch., Sprinkle, L.R.	2020	Applied International Economics		https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/vilunivebooks/detail.action?docID=6191912
Pugel, Th.A.	2004	International economics	12th edition	McGraw-Hill/Irwin
Bernatonytė, D.	2007	International trade [in *Lithuanian*]		Kaunas University of Technology (KTU)
Husted, S., Melvin, M.	2013	International economics	9th edition	Pearson
Recommended reading				
Torelli, P.	2017	International Economics: Understanding the Forces of Globalization for Managers	2th edition	https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/vilunivebooks/detail.action?docID=4880211
Mohtadi, S.A.	2017	Guide to International Economics	Business Expert Press, ProQuest Ebook Central	https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/vilunivebooks/detail.action?docID=5781051
Pukelienė, V.	2008	Economic Integration: Theory, EU Policy, and Processes [in *Lithuanian*]		VDU: Kaunas
Kvainauskaitė V.	2005	Fundamentals of International Economic Relations [in *Lithuanian*]		Technologija: KTU
Startienė, G.	2002	International Trade Finance [in *Lithuanian*]		Technologija: KTU