

Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg

Faculty of Natural Sciences III, Institute of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences

Module: „Sustainable Food Systems: International Agri-Food Trade“ (4 SWS)

Summer Semester 2026

Prof. Dr. Linde Götz

Course description as of 12 February 2026

Time: Thursday (every 2 weeks): 14:00 – 16:00 and Friday (weekly): 10:00 – 12:15

Starting date: 9 April 2026 (Thursday)

Place: Seminar room 54 (next to IAMO library), Leibniz-Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Theodor-Lieser-Str. 2, 06120 Halle (Saale)

Consultation hours: directly after the lecture and by appointment

Contact: e-mail: goetz@iamo.de; phone: 0345/2928327

Aims:

This lecture has four objectives. Firstly, basic concepts, terms and models of international agricultural trade theory are taught both graphically and analytically. In addition, the lecture will provide an insight into research work in the field of international trade in the agricultural and food sector. To this end, IAMO staff will report on their research work and projects in guest lectures. The lecture will also address current topics in agri-food trade policy. Last but not least, the aim is to strengthen students' social skills, as teamwork is an essential part of this course. Also, an excursion will be offered depending on course participation.

Preconditions:

The lecture is aimed in particular at students pursuing a Master's degree in Agricultural Sciences, Nutritional Sciences, International Area Studies and Management of Natural Resources. Although basic knowledge of economics is an advantage, it is not a prerequisite. Rather, the lecture aims to provide a guided, well-structured access to selected basic trade theories. Course contents is repeated and applied in exercises which are to be solved in teams, while solutions will be discussed in detail in class.

Please note the following hint for students in Master IAS-GCG:

„Studierende in Master IAS-GCG müssen VOR Anmeldung der Modulleistung die Genehmigung einholen, dass dieses Modul als Ersatz für ein anderes, im Studienprogramm enthaltenes Modul, verwendet werden darf. Das zu ersetzende Modul muss benannt werden. Das vollständig ausgefüllte und unterschriebene [Formular](#) des Prüfungsamtes der NF III übersenden Sie per E-Mail an die Adresse studienbuero@geo.uni-halle.de. Mit dem genehmigten Äquivalenzantrag können Sie im Prüfungsamt innerhalb der Anmeldefrist die Anmeldung zur Modulleistung vornehmen lassen. Rückfragen zu diesem Verfahren richten Sie bitte an Astrid Henke vom Studienbüro Geo.“

Performance record:

There will be a written examination as proof of performance at the end of the semester. The examination can cover the entire content of the lecture, but will mainly be based on selected exercise questions solved together in the lecture and additional questions for repetition. Students have the opportunity to prepare a presentation on a related topic (in consultation with the course instructor). At the students' request, the grade for the presentation can account for 40% of the final grade.

Date of the exam:

17 July 2026

Textbook:

The following book will be closely followed in the lecture regarding the international trade theory. To prepare for the course and facilitate understanding, the students are advised to read the respective book chapters in advance. The respective chapter numbers are in the overview on course topics, e.g. KRUG 3.1 refers to chapter 3.1 in the textbook by Krugman:

Paul R. Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld and Marc J. Melitz: International Economics: Theory and Policy, 11th Edition, Global Pearson; previous editions of the text book can also be used and might be purchased second-hand at low price.

The Case Study “Winners and Losers of the Trump Trade War” will be discussed in Section 3.3 and will be made available to the students from the following textbook:

Paul R. Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld and Marc J. Melitz: International Trade: Theory and Policy, 12th Global Edition, pg. 245-248.

Course content:

1 Overview of the Course and Introduction of the Course topic

2 Evolution, Determinants and Status of International Agri-food Trade

2.1 The Sustainable Food Systems

text base: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 2018:
Sustainable food systems: Concept and framework

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b620989c-407b-4caf-a152-f790f55fec71/content>

2.2 Global Agri-food Trade, Food Security and Nutrition

text base: Chapter 1: How does trade matter for food security and nutrition? Evolution of agri-food trade & production, in: Food and Agric. Organiz. of the UN (FAO) 2025: Evol. of global agri-food trade, trade policy and implications for nutrition, page 3-18.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/1270fe85-8196-42a8-afd4-9db9c99a826f>

2.3 Globalization, Regionalization and Resilience of Agri-food Trade

text base: Part 1: Global and Regional Trade Networks, in: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 2022: The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets: The Geography of Food and Agricultural Trade, page 1-23.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/b62d008a-11a8-4630-a603-c98398a9ac16>

2.4 Determinants of Trade in Food and Agriculture

text base: Part 2: The Fundamental Drivers of Trade in Food and Agriculture, in: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) 2022: The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets: The Geography of Food and Agricultural Trade, page 1-23.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/b62d008a-11a8-4630-a603-c98398a9ac16>

3 International Trade Theory

3.1 Trade and Comparative Advantage: The Ricardian Model

- 3.1.1 The Concept of Comparative Advantage (KRUG 3.1)
- 3.1.2 A One-Factor Economy (KRUG 3.2)
- 3.1.3 Trade in a One-Factor World (KRUG 3.3)
- 3.1.4 Misconceptions about Comparative Advantage (KRUG 3.4)
- 3.1.5 *Guest Research Presentation:* Dr. Tinoush Jaghdani (IAMO): Trade Stability as a Pillar of Trade Resilience

3.2 Increasing Returns to Scale and Trade: The New Trade Theory

- 3.2.1 Economies of Scale and International Trade (KRUG 7.1)
- 3.2.2 Economies of Scale and Market Structure (KRUG 7.2)
- 3.2.3 The Theory of External Economies (KRUG 7.3)
- 3.2.4 The Theory of Imperfect Competition (KRUG 8.1)
- 3.2.5 Monopolistic Competition and Trade (KRUG 8.2)
- 3.3 *Guest Research Presentation:* Ketevan Melkadze (IAMO): Russia's Wheat Export Growth – Firm-level Gravity Approach

4 International Trade Policy

- 4.1 Basic Tariff Analysis (KRUG 9.1)
- 4.2 Costs and Benefits of a Tariff (KRUG 9.2)
- 4.3 Case Study: Winners and Losers of the Trump Trade War
- 4.4 Agric. trade policy for price insulation in times of skyrocketing world market prices
 - 4.4.1 *Case study:* Wheat export restrictions & food security

5 Topics for student presentations (examples)

- 4.1 International Trade and Food Security
- 4.2 International Trade and Sustainability
- 4.4 International Trade and the Environment