Syllabus for International Relations and Commercial Policy

(Fall 2026)

- Professor: Hyungsik Harris Kim
- Class hours: Tuesday 13:30 – 14:45, Thursday 13:30 – 14:45
- Class room: 14303

■ Course Description

This course is designed to expose students to international battlefield. International relations ultimately come from the bilateral or multilateral dimension of state competition. Every state pursues its own interest. Is there a rule to govern this battlefield? The answer depends upon how you view the world economic order whether it is an anarchic or realism, or constructivism.
In order to tackle this profound issue, this course rather focuses on the explanations of economic theories. Before students proceed to this political issue, students need to be equipped with useful analytical tools to assess whether contemporary commercial policies are plausible or it runs counter to the spirit of times. Then, it is expected that students learn established insights and analytical tools regarding social phenomena, especially international relations.

■ Prerequisites

Principles of Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics and Macroeconomics (both I and II), or any equivalent courses.

■ Course Objectives

This course will provide an opportunity to understand the international relations with a focus on trade policies, first. Then, students will be exposed to international financial arena where international relations interact closely.

The course will promote mutual understanding among students through class discussions and interactions.

The students will develop expertise in the field of international relations.

■ Class Type and Teaching-Learning Methods

(Lecture, Discussion, Team-based Learning, Field Study)

50% will be lecture on the economic theory to explain international relations.

30% will consist of comprehensive evaluations on team project performances that include participation density, peer evaluation on duties.

20% will be on Q&A and class discussion, so the students are strongly encouraged to actively participate in the class discussions.

■ Percentage of Grade

Attendance(20%), Assignments(20%), Midterm(30%), Final(30%)

■ Course Policies

1. Active participation in class is very important. Attendance will be checked at every session.

2. As most of the class content consists of lectures and discussions, the classroom should be a space for mutual respect. To this end, please turn off your mobile phones before class begins, refrain from conversations that disrupt the lesson, and do not read newspapers or other materials during the lecture.

3. Any final report submitted after the deadline will not be accepted for any reasons.

4. Academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with university policy as described in the Hallym University Student Handbook.

■ Texts and References

Reading materials will be provided by professor.

■ Weekly Plan

1. Syllabus reading / introduction

2. What is International Relations?

3. Principles of Economics

4. Principles of Economics

5. Instruments of trade policies (I)

6. Instruments of trade policies (II)

7. Political economy of Trade Policy (I)

8. Political economy of Trade Policy (II)

9. Midterm

10. Cross-Border Payment & Settlement

11. Cross-Border Payment & Settlement

12. International Monetary System
13. International Monetary System
14. Term-End Project Presentations (Part 1)
15. Term-End Project Presentations (Part 2)
16. Final exam