

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

SPP/Economics 541

Paper #3 Assignment

Due Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Choose a country and select a particular actual trade policy of that country, then analyze its effects. For example, you may simply pick a single product on which the country levies a tariff, and then analyze the effects of reducing or removing that tariff. Or you may select a policy that is more important and/or interesting for your chosen country than a simple tariff – that’s up to you. But do not pick something that is beyond the scope of what you will be able to analyze using the tools of this course. The paper will be graded in part on the difficulty of the challenge that you’ve selected for yourself, but also on how well you have met that challenge.

Whatever your choice of policy, it will be up to you to decide on the method for analyzing the policy, presumably by modeling it and then finding data to implement the model. Your analysis should include the quantification of effects of the policy on relevant groups within the country, such as producers and consumers of the product and the government budget. If there are significant effects on groups in other countries, or in other markets, then these should be included as well. It is unlikely that you will be able to quantify *all* of the effects that you expect your chosen policy may have, however, and your paper should include a non-quantitative discussion of some of those as well.

Papers should be written by the assigned groups of 2 or 3 students, which are not the same as for papers 1 and 2.

Structure of Assignment:

1. See “Format Instructions for Papers” and be sure to follow all of the guidelines.
2. The paper should be between 3 and 5 pages long – definitely **no longer** than 5 pages including any tables and graphs.
3. The text of the paper should explain what the reader should learn from any accompanying figures, tables, and graphs.
4. Organize the material clearly, dividing the paper into short, labeled sections on the different topics that you deal with.
5. The paper should include the following elements:
 - A cover sheet (unnumbered, and does not count as part of the page limit)
 - Introduction – a short paragraph stating the purpose of the paper
 - Description of the trade policy to be analyzed (unless it is simple enough to have been included in the introduction)
 - The model used to analyze the policy
 - Data needed for the analysis, and results
 - Discussion of findings
 - Conclusion – another paragraph summarizing what you found
 - List of sources