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Faculty of Economics  
Saint Petersburg State University  
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## **Russia and the WTO: Foreign Trade with Major Partners Problems and Prospects**

**Language:** English

### **Instructor**

Vadim Kapustkin, PhD in Economics, is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics at the St. Petersburg State University. He is the author of over 45 books, articles and working papers. He has published articles and working papers on Russia and the WTO. He is a member of the WTO technical experts group.

**Prerequisites:** Basic knowledge of international trade and Russian economy

This course offers a comparative look at the Russian WTO accession and membership. We begin with the WTO general overview. The WTO's creation on 1 January 1995 marked the biggest reform of international trade since after the Second World War. We will make general overview of Russian accession (chronology, agenda of negotiations). Prospects and possible repercussions of Russia's WTO membership and foreign trade with major trading partners (the EU, the CIS-members, China) will be examined. Russian perspective of the Doha round of the WTO negotiations will be discussed in the final part of the course.

This is a lecture course, though there will also be a significant discussion component. Every class includes 'discussion session' where students should discuss breaking news related to Russia's WTO accession and membership problems and prospects. Students are expected to stay abreast of major developments, by at a minimum by frequent reading of internet sources such as the Russian Ministry of Economic Development - <http://www.economy.gov.ru>; the WTO - [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org); the EU - <http://europa.eu>. The general pattern will be instructor's lecture for approximately one and half hour, followed by time for Q & A.

**Final Exam:** 50% - student's presentations and activity during the class; 50% - final essay-type written exam

## **Topic outline:**

1. WTO general overview
  - The GATT role in the Global trade regulation in 1947-94
  - Uruguay Round agreements and the WTO foundation in 1995
  - The WTO agreements, aim, tasks, functions and principles
2. General overview of Russian accession (chronology, agenda of negotiations)
  - USSR / Russia and the GATT
  - Russia's WTO accession negotiations
  - Trade in goods negotiations
  - Agricultural market access negotiations
  - Trade in services negotiations
  - Intellectual property rights international transfer negotiations
  - Systemic questions negotiations
3. Russia's trade with major trading partners (the EU, the CIS, China)
4. Prospects and possible repercussions of Russia's WTO membership
  - WTO accession impacts to Russian industry
  - WTO accession impacts to Russian agriculture
  - WTO accession impacts to Russian service sector
  - WTO accession regional aspects
5. Doha round of WTO negotiations: Russian perspective
  - Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations
  - DDA negotiations impact to Russian economy.