



International Trade Regulations: the Law of the WTO

Course description

With the growing economic interdependence of the world, understanding this system is becoming increasingly important. With as much as 50% (or more) of profits of some businesses coming from transactions across borders, it does not seem extravagant to suggest that in the next few decades a very high percentage of lawyers will encounter problems of the sort that require an understanding of the role of law (or lack of law) in international affairs.

This course will study the legal framework governing international economic relations and global business. Students will gain an understanding of why and how national and international institutions regulate world trade. Particular attention will be paid to the evolution of international trade regulation and the pressures on existing regulatory concepts and principles. Topics will include WTO, the protection of intellectual property, the promotion of international services transactions, and the stability of international currency markets.

There is no way to keep course materials in this subject completely up-to-date, since new developments occur almost daily. Thus we will heavily be using online resources from the WTO website and similar websites that we will refer to in due course.

Course Materials

WTO and GATT case law and jurisprudence will be heavily invoked, and those can be obtained from the WTO website and from www.worldtradelaw.net Reading assignments will be posted on the course web page and/or sent to students over email on a weekly basis. Unless otherwise indicated, all readings will be available through the course web page.

Office Hours

My office is Room 38 in the Faculty of Law and I will hold regular office hours before our class with several exceptions that will be announced in class during the semester. I will also be available for office meetings by appointment. In addition, I will hold "virtual office hours" via e-mail, 24 hours/day.

Grading

Readings

1. INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE REGULATION Week 1

- WTO, The Ten Benefits
- Comparative Advantage Theory

2. FROM THE BRETTON WOODS SYSTEM TO THE WTO Week 2

- WTO, The multilateral trading system—past, present and future
- WTO, The Organization
- WTO, The WTO Agreements
- WTO, Developing Countries
- The Organization of the WTO

3. Non-discrimination: MFN Week 3

4. Non-Discrimination: National Treatment week 4

5. Border Measures: Tariffs, Quotas and Non-Tariff Barriers week 5

5. Technical Barriers: SPS and TBT week 5

6. Exceptions week 6

7. The Exception: Regional and Preferential Trade week 7

8. Dumping, Subsidies and Safeguard Measures week 8

9. International Trade and Intellectual Property week 9

10. The Dispute Settlement System week 10

11. Jordan's FTAs week 11

12. Jordan's FTAs week 12

13. Perspectives and Prospects week 13