

SYLLABUS

Course Description

International Trade Law is an introduction to the legal framework governing the international trade in goods as well as the critiques that have been leveled at this legal regime. The primary focus of the course will be the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), including the settlement and adjudication of trade disputes. The course will provide students with the knowledge of WTO rules essential to the representation of a wide range of potential clients and stakeholders affected by global trade, including established businesses, start-up enterprises, government policy-makers, legislators, labor unions, think tanks, and non-governmental organizations active in fields as diverse as climate policy, human rights advocacy, and natural resource conservation.

Required Texts

1. Chow & Schoenbaum, International Trade Law: Problems, Cases and Materials (3rd ed. 2017).
2. Chow & Schoenbaum, International Trade Law: Documents Supplement (2017)
3. Sarah Joseph, Blame it on the WTO? A Human Rights Critique (Oxford University Press, 2011). Open access. Download for free at:
<http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/academic/pdf/openaccess/9780199565894.pdf>

Teaching Methods and Basis for Grading

This class requires careful reading of the assigned materials and the corresponding WTO provisions in the Documents Supplement. Students are expected to attend every class and to participate in class discussions and problem-solving exercises. Voluntary class participation is encouraged. However, I want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to participate and will therefore call on students who have not raised their hands and assign students to make class presentations. You may “pass” if you are unprepared, but passing in excess of once per semester is an indication of poor class preparation and may result in a lowering of your grade.

EXAMINATION: 75 % of your grade will be determined on the basis of a three-hour closed-book examination at the end of the course. You will not be allowed to bring any outside materials (textbooks, notes, outlines, etc.) into the exam room – with the exception of one 8 ½ X 11 inch piece of paper with notes on both sides.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: 25 % of your grade will be based on class participation.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is required by the ABA, and I recommend that you miss no classes. In the event of a lengthy illness or a single problem causing you to miss multiple classes, please come see me. Missing class in excess of four occasions per semester may result in a lowering of your grade.

Office Hours

My office hours are on Monday and Wednesday from 4:30-5:30 while classes are in session. If you would like to schedule an appointment at a different time, please contact me via E-mail. My office is located in Teaching Unit II, Office 216. My E-mail address is: cgonza61@Central.UH.EDU

Counseling and Psychological Services

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus.
http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html

Coverage

I plan to cover the topics listed below. However, I may adjust the course coverage as the semester proceeds in order to devote additional time to particular topics or to incorporate role-playing and problem-solving exercises. Assignments for the coming week will be given each Wednesday.

1. Introduction to International Trade Law and International Human Rights Law
Textbook: 1-30; Joseph: 7-31
2. Why is the WTO Controversial? Textbook: 31-42; Joseph: 32-55; Ha-Joon Chang, *Kicking Away the Ladder* (class handout)
3. The WTO and Preferential Trade Agreements (such as NAFTA)

Textbook: 43-62

4. The WTO and Democracy Joseph: 56-90
5. WTO Dispute Settlement Textbook: 83-109
6. Domestic Implementation of Trade Agreements Textbook: 115-134; 137-142
7. Core WTO Principles (Most Favored Nation) Textbook: 149-162
8. Core WTO Principles (National Treatment) Textbook: 162-179
9. Government Regulation and Government Procurement: Textbook: 179-197
10. Customs and Tariff Law Textbook: 199-229
11. Non-Tariff Barriers and Quotas: Textbook: 265-275; 280-286; 296-312
12. The WTO and the Environment Textbook: 321-338
13. Product Safety & Food Safety Textbook: 344-365
14. Waste Minimization and Disposal Textbook: 365-372
15. Climate Change and Multilateral Environmental Agreements
Textbook: 382-392
16. Trade Restrictions to Promote Human Rights Joseph: 91-130
17. Workers' Rights Textbook: 398-398; Joseph: 130-137
18. TRIPS, Patents, and Access to Medicines
Textbook: 609-614; 620-628; Joseph: 214-244
19. The WTO and the Right to Food Textbook 286-292; Joseph: 181-213
20. The WTO, Poverty, and Development Joseph: 142-180
21. Intellectual Property and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (excerpt from Just Trade)
22. The WTO and Extraterritorial Human Rights Obligations Joseph: 245-276