Course Name: Global Trade and Development

Instructor:

Dr. Amrita Bahri

Welcome to the Course!!

The course focuses on the laws, principles, functioning and jurisprudence of International Trade Law. Students will understand the principles of multilateral and bilateral trade and engage with the practice of international trade law with the help of current jurisprudence and hypothetical dispute scenarios. The students will receive an appreciation of the purpose and functions of the WTO and be familiar with its principal rules, impact and jurisprudence.

This course also explores the dynamic relationship between international trade and development. It examines the historical evolution of trade systems, key theoretical frameworks, policy debates, and the impact of trade on poverty, inequality, industrialization, and sustainability. Through case studies and empirical data, students will evaluate trade's role in shaping development outcomes across regions.

Students will learn with a unique combination of lectures, class discussions and practice exercises. The approach employed will be practical (with real life examples), critical (with practical assessments) and contemporary (with recent developments).

Aims and Objectives

The aim is to provide students with:

- An overview of international trading system and its interaction with development concerns
- An introduction to bilateral and regional trade negotiations and recent trends and developments
- A good working understanding of the WTO law and jurisprudence
- Some practical tools to think critically about the role played by the WTO in global economic governance and development

Reference Books

Rodrik, D. (2011). The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Van den Bossche, P., & Zdouc, W. (2021). The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization: Text, Cases, and Materials (5th ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**I will upload all required readings for this course for each module on Canvas.

Topics Covered

Topic 1: An Introduction to Economic Globalisation and Need for International Trading System

Sub-topics covered include:

1. What is globalisation and liberalisation, and their impacts
2. Need for International Trade Law
3. An Introduction to International Trade Law
4. History of International Trading system

Topic 2: An Introduction to International Trade Negotiations

Sub-topics covered include:

1. What is trade negotiation
2. Difference between multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations
3. Their respective advantages and disadvantages
4. Recent examples and experience of negotiators in their words
5. NAFTA and the New NAFTA: Mexican experience

Topic 3: The Origins, Architecture and Purpose of WTO

Sub-topics covered include:

1. Economic globalization and international trade
2. Trade Liberalization versus protectionism
3. International trade and need for regulation
4. The origins and evolution of the GATT/WTO system
5. The nature, purpose and principles of the WTO/GATT
6. Sources of WTO Law
7. WTO Law in context
8. Mandate of the WTO
9. Membership of the WTO
10. Institutional architecture of the WTO
11. Decision Making in the WTO
12. Practice Exercise: Globaphiles *versus* Globaphobes/To Join or not to Join?

Topic 4: Non-discrimination and General Exceptions

Sub-topics covered include:

1. Introduction to non-discrimination (scope, like products, less favourable treatment, regulatory purpose)
2. GATT Article I; Article III:4; Article III:2; Article III:8 of GATT 1994 (MFN and NT under GATT 1994)
3. Introduction to GATT Article XX; General exceptions: public morals; human, animal or plant life or health; securing compliance with laws or regulations; necessity; conservation of exhaustible natural resources
4. Practice Exercise: Beer in Newland

Topic 5: The WTO Dispute Settlement System

Sub-topics covered include:

1. Principles of WTO dispute settlement
2. Institutions of WTO dispute settlement
3. WTO dispute settlement proceedings
4. Main Challenge to the WTO dispute settlement system
5. Participation of Developing Countries
6. Case laws discussion
7. Practice Exercise: Newland seeks justice

Topic 6: Trade Policy Instruments

Sub-topics covered include:

1. Tariffs, quotas, subsidies, non-tariff barriers
2. Trade liberalization and protectionism
3. Political economy of trade policy

Topic 7: Introduction to Global Trade, Development and Inequality

Sub-topics covered include:

1. Overview of global trade patterns and development indicators
2. Major actors: WTO, IMF, World Bank, UNCTAD
3. The development-trade nexus
4. Global and within-country inequality trends
5. Winners and losers of trade liberalization

Topic 8: Trade and the Environment

1. Trade-environment nexus
2. Sustainable trade and green protectionism
3. Carbon border adjustments and climate diplomacy

Topic 9: Trade and Gender Equality

Sub-topics covered include:

1. Economic empowerment of women
2. Using multilateral law
3. Using bilateral trade agreements
4. Measuring gender responsiveness of trade agreements

Topic 10: Controversies and Future Directions

Sub-topics covered include:

1. Deglobalization and re-shoring trends
2. Fair trade and ethical sourcing
3. Trade, geopolitics, and the multipolar world
4. Trade wars, unilateralism, protectionism

**This outline is indicative and may undergo minor changes/revisions

Teaching Methods

Sessions will comprise lectures with the help of illustrative slides, on-the-spot quizzes, discussions, and practice exercises. We will have constant seminar discussions where we will reflect upon the practical application of laws and concepts we discussed in the lectures. Constant feedback on performance will be provided after each exercise.

Assessment Methods

Take-home exam	70%
Class Participation	30%

**Marking criteria will be provided individually for each assessment activity.

Office Hours:

Should you wish to contact me, email me and we can find a mutually convenient time and date. I can be reached at amrita.bahri@itam.mx

Housekeeping Rules!!

- All readings, class exercises and materials will be uploaded on Canvas before every lecture
- Check notifications on Canvas every day and keep up to date with all materials posted on it
- Do all readings uploaded in the lecture folder at Canvas after every class
- Class attendance and participation is a must
- Come on time for every class, no late entries will be allowed
- Most importantly, enjoy this course!

Grading Rubric (for written and oral assessments)

Grading Brackets	Standard	Criteria/Requirements
9 - 10	**Excellent**	**Will be awarded where:** ➢ the student will demonstrate an ability to deal confidently with relevant principles of law; ➢ the student will show a capacity for independent thinking (with appropriate reference to case law and statutes); ➢ the student will show an ability to critically assess arguments made and views expressed in the

		relevant literature (for example books, journal articles and parliamentary reports); ➢ the discussion will show evidence that the writer/speaker has a point of view on the issue at hand. However this will be a reasoned view which is supported by evidence, argument, or authority and will address alternative perspectives or arguments which may be raised; ➢ assessed work will contain relevant quotations from and or references to views expressed in the relevant literature where and as appropriate in the work; ➢ all points raised will be arranged in a logically coherent manner; ➢ all issues and arguments raised will be made succinctly and presented effectively.
7 - 8.9	**Good**	**Will be awarded where:** ➢ the student will demonstrate a good understanding of law but without demonstrating an ability to deal confidently with the relevant principles of law or, alternatively, the law may be confidently expressed in places but not consistently throughout; ➢ the student will show sound capacity for independent thinking (with some appropriate reference to case law and statutes); ➢ the discussion will show sound evidence that the writer/speaker has a point of view on the issue at hand. However this will be a reasoned view which is supported by evidence, argument, or authority and will address some of the alternative perspectives or arguments which may be raised; ➢ assessed work will contain some relevant quotations from and or references to views expressed in the relevant literature where and as appropriate in the work; ➢ most points raised will be arranged in a logically coherent manner; ➢ most issues and arguments raised will be made succinctly and structured effectively.
6 - 6.9	**Satisfactory**	**Will be awarded where:**

		➢ the student will demonstrate some understanding of law but that understanding may either be expressed poorly or may be strong in some places and weak in others; ➢ the work/presentation will contain some reference to case law and statutes but without an adequate explanation of how that links to the points raised; ➢ the work/presentation will contain some reference to views expressed in published materials but it is likely to be either largely irrelevant or too brief to demonstrate an appropriate depth of knowledge; ➢ the work/presentation will typically demonstrate a lack of ability to deal confidently with relevant principles of law; ➢ the discussion will show only limited evidence that the writer/speaker has a point of view on the issue at hand or, if the writer/speaker has a point of view, it will not be well-reasoned and supported by evidence, argument, or authority and will fail to address alternative perspectives or arguments which may be raised; ➢ most points raised will be arranged in a logically coherent manner but will not be structured effectively.
0 - 5.9	**Non Satisfactory**	**Will be awarded where:** ➢ the student will demonstrate only an awareness of some of the more obvious legal issues; ➢ there will be marginal or no reference to the main relevant case law and statutes; ➢ there is unlikely to be any reference to relevant literature to support arguments made; ➢ there will be some weakness in the presentation of points raised and in the application of the law to the facts; ➢ points raised will not be arranged in a logically coherent manner; ➢ there may be some misunderstanding of the question or of some of the relevant principles of law; ➢ the discussion will show little or no evidence that

		the writer/speaker has a point of view on the issues at hand or any point of view expressed will not be supported by evidence, argument, or authority and will not address alternative perspectives or arguments which may be raised.

NOTE: This is a general grading rubric. I will provide specific rubrics for every class assignment, midterm exam, oral and written exam closer to time.