

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by School of Law
with effect from Semester A 2024/25**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	<u>International Trade Regulation</u>
Course Code:	<u>LW5620</u>
Course Duration:	<u>One semester</u>
Credit Units:	<u>3</u>
Level:	<u>P5</u>
Medium of Instruction:	<u>English</u>
Medium of Assessment:	<u>English</u>
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>Nil</u>
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>Nil</u>
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>LW4620 International Trade Regulation</u>
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>LW6144E World Trade Law</u>

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to

- provide students with a critical understanding of the law and policy of modern international trade agreements, with an emphasis on the legal regime of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
- expose students to the complex intersections between the regulation of international trade and domestic regulatory authorities, and the interface between law, politics and public policy that emerges in international trade negotiation and dispute settlement.
- encourage students to identify and search for an appropriate understanding of the current issues in the rules-based multilateral trading system.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Identify, describe and synthesize the principles relating to the multilateral trading system	50%	✓	✓	✓
2.	Apply the rules of international trade law to complex fact patterns	30%	✓	✓	✓
3.	Develop the skills to analyse, evaluate, and reflect critically on current legal and economic problems of the international trade system	20%	✓	✓	✓
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.			Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	
Lectures	Students will engage in formal lectures to gain knowledge about international trade law	✓			2 hours/week or a total of 26 hours of block teaching
Interactive class discussion	Students will learn how to apply the law to cases. Students will also be engaged to participate in debates to develop a critical view on the strengths and deficiencies of international trade law		✓	✓	1 hour/week or a total of 13 hours of block teaching

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.			Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3		
Continuous Assessment: 30%					
Classroom participation	✓	✓	✓	10%	
Group assignment	✓	✓	✓	20%	
Examination (duration: 2 hours): 70%					
Examination	✓	✓	✓	70%	
				100%	

The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Students must obtain a minimum mark of 50% in both continuous assessment (CA) and examination and an overall mark of 50% in order to pass the course.

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 and thereafter

Students must obtain a minimum mark of 40% in both continuous assessment (CA) and examination and an overall mark of 40% in order to pass the course.

To ensure fair and comprehensive assessment of students' course performance, the pass mark requirement for the CA component will be waived for courses with a CA component equal to or less than 30%. This means students only need to achieve the pass marks for the final exam component AND the overall mark to pass the course. Continuous assessment for this purpose means those ways in which students are assessed otherwise than by the end of semester examination.

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
1. Continuous Assessment:	Demonstration of ability to identify issues; Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions.	High	Significant	Moderate	Inadequate
2. Examination	Demonstration of ability to identify issues; Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions.	High	Significant	Moderate	Inadequate

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 and thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Continuous Assessment:	Demonstration of ability to identify issues; Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions.	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.	Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.	Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.	Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.
2. Examination	Demonstration of ability to identify issues; Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions.	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.	Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.	Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.	Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Syllabus

1.1 Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

World Trade Organization, Dispute Settlement, Tariffs, Non-discrimination, Trade Protectionism, Trade Remedies, Technical Barriers to Trade, Free Trade Agreements

1.2 Detailed Syllabus

The following topics are studied in detail:

1. The history and institutions of the multilateral trading system
2. Dispute settlement system of the WTO
3. Tariffs and non-tariff measures
4. Non-discrimination principle
5. General exceptions
6. Safeguards
7. Anti-dumping
8. Subsidies and countervailing measures
9. Agreement on technical barriers to trade
10. Agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures
11. Free trade agreements

2. Reading List

2.1 Essential Readings (Recommended Textbooks)

Peter Van Den Bossche and Werner Zdouc, *The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization* (5th ed, Cambridge University Press, 2021)

Andrew T. Guzman and Joost Pauwelyn, *International Trade law* (Wolters Kluwer, 2009)

Simon Lester, Bryan Mercurio and Arwel Davis, *World Trade Law: Text, Materials and Commentary* (3rd, Hart Publishing, 2018)

Mitsuo Matsushita, Thomas Schoenbaum, Petros Mavroidis and Michael Hahn, *The*

World Trade Organization: Law, Practice, and Policy (3rd ed, Oxford University Press, 2015)

2.2 Recommended Journals

- Journal of International Economic Law
- Journal of World Trade
- World Trade Review
- American Journal of International Law
- Journal of World Investment & Trade
- Legal Issues of Economic Integration
- The World Economy
- European Journal of International Law

2.3 Recommended Podcasts

- Trade Talks
- Tradecraft
- Dollar & Sense
- The Trade Guys
- ECIPE Global Economy Podcast
- Trade Bites

2.4 Recommended Websites

- WTO official website: www.wto.org
- International Economic Law and Policy Blog: <https://worldtradelaw.typepad.com/>
- Brookings Institute (Trade Section): <https://www.brookings.edu/topic/global-trade/>
- Peterson Institution for International Economics (Trade Policy): <https://www.piie.com/research/trade-investment/trade-policy>
- Centre for Strategic & International Studies (Trade and International Business), <https://www.csis.org/topics/economics/trade-and-international-business>
- Global Trade Alert: <https://www.globaltradealert.org/reports>