

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:	World Trade Law
Course Code:	LW6144E
Course Duration:	One semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	P6
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	LW5544
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	LW6544C, LW6544E and LW5620

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 as administered by the World Trade Organisation.	50%	√	√	√
2.	Apply the rules of world 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 trading 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	The course leader will present the substantive law on the topics listed below in the course syllabus.	√	√	√	2 hours/week or a total of 26 hours of block teaching
Interactive	Students will learn how to apply the	√	√	√	1 hour/week

class discussions	law to specific cases and develop problem-solving skills. Students will also be engaged to participate in debates to develop a critical view of the strengths and deficiencies of international trade law.				or a total of 13 hours of block teaching
Group assignments	Students will be divided into groups and write an essay on a specified topic relating to international trade law.	√	√	√	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

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

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CISO No.			Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3		
Continuous Assessment: 30%					
Classroom interaction (i.e., Q&A)	√	√	√	15%	The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.
Group assignment (written report)	√	√	√	15%	
Examination (open book): (duration: 2 hours)				70%	The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.
				100%	

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

Students must obtain a minimum mark of 50% in examination and an overall mark of 50% in order to pass the course.

When University facilities and resources are available, students are required to take a computer-based examination in computer labs. During the examination, students are blocked from access to the Internet.

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

Students must obtain a minimum mark of 40% in examination and an overall mark of 40% in order to pass the course.

When University facilities and resources are available, students are required to take a computer-based examination in computer labs. During the examination, students are blocked from access to the Internet.

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)	Fair (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
1. Classroom interaction (i.e. Q&A) 2. Group assignment	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.	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.
3. 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.	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

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

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Classroom interaction (i.e. Q&A) 2. Group assignment	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.
3. 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, Non-discrimination, Trade protectionism, Trade remedies, Technical barriers to trade, Tariffs, 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 duties
8. Subsidies and countervailing duties
9. Agreement on technical barriers to trade
10. Agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures
11. Free trade agreements
12. Trade liberalization in the 21st century

2. Reading List

2.1 Essential Readings

Peter Van Den Bossche and Werner Zdouc, *The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization* (4th ed, Cambridge University Press, 2017).

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

- World Trade Review
- Journal of World Trade
- American Journal of International Law
- Leiden Journal of International Law
- Journal of World Investment & Trade
- Legal Issues of Economic Integration
- The World Economy
- European Journal of International Law
- Asian Journal of WTO & International Health Law and Policy
- World Politics

2.3 Recommended podcasts

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

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>