



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS8972 Law of the World Trade Organisation - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS8972

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice

Academic Unit : School of Private and Commercial Law

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course examines the way in which the World Trade Organisation (the WTO) regulates international trade. The course begins by examining the arguments for and against the regulation of international trade, and the historical development of the WTO Agreements. The course will

then survey the major WTO Agreements, such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (the GATT) and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (the GATS). The course will also provide insight into some of the major concepts and controversies in present day international trade law. It is hoped that by completing this course, students will gain a balanced perspective into the strengths and weaknesses of the WTO system, and a working knowledge of the way in which the WTO affects domestic regulation of international trade.

Main Topics

- Globalisation and the rationales for and against free trade;
- The history of trade liberalization and the origins of the WTO;
- Overview of the major agreements, such as the GATT, the GATS, and the Dispute Settlement Understanding;
- Researching WTO law;
- Reform of the WTO and the Doha Round;
- Interlinkages of trade and development, human rights and environmental issues.

Course Aims

This course provides an introduction to the legal environment of trade transactions at an international level, focussing on the legal and policy dimensions of the World Trade Organisation (the WTO).

The course is intended to give students the tools to understand the contemporary context of international trade, the legal regime established by the WTO, and to enable them to understand and take part in contemporary policy debates about the WTO and globalization.

Course Learning Outcomes

| Course Learning Outcomes |
|---|
| CLO1 : Demonstrate effective oral communication and collaboration through class discussion of complex legal, theoretical and/or professionally relevant subject matter in a scholarly and insightful manner (PLOs 1a, 3a & 3b) |
| CLO2 : Demonstrate an ability to utilise research principles and methods in the context of contemporary policy debate, globalisation and the World Trade Organisation (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b & 4) |
| CLO3 : Engage in advanced critical analysis of the historical and social significance of the World Trade Organisation with consideration of emerging trends through an extended research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a & 4) |
| CLO4 : Demonstrate advanced written communication skills by articulating complex legal concepts, theory and analysis using effective research methodologies by completing an appropriate literature review (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b & 3a) |

| Course Learning Outcomes | Assessment Item |
|---|--|
| CLO1 : Demonstrate effective oral communication and collaboration through class discussion of complex legal, theoretical and/or professionally relevant subject matter in a scholarly and insightful manner (PLOs 1a, 3a & 3b) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Participation |
| CLO2 : Demonstrate an ability to utilise research principles and methods in the context of contemporary policy debate, globalisation and the World Trade Organisation (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b & 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay Outline • Research Essay (5000 words) |
| CLO3 : Engage in advanced critical analysis of the historical and social significance of the World Trade Organisation with consideration of emerging trends through an extended research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a & 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Essay (5000 words) |
| CLO4 : Demonstrate advanced written communication skills by articulating complex legal concepts, theory and analysis using effective research methodologies by completing an appropriate literature review (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b & 3a) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay Outline • Research Essay (5000 words) |

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

| Assessment Item | Weight | Relevant Dates |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Class Participation | 20% | |
| Essay Outline | 10% | |
| Research Essay (5000 words) | 70% | |

Assessment Details

Class Participation

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Demonstrate effective oral communication and collaboration through class discussion of complex legal, theoretical and/or professionally relevant subject matter in a scholarly and insightful manner (PLOs 1a, 3a & 3b)

Detailed Assessment Description

In this course, class participation will be assessed based on your performance in lectures, including raising and answering questions, and engaging in class discussions and exercises. More instructions may be provided by the lecturer in class.

Essay Outline

Assessment Overview

Not specified

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Demonstrate an ability to utilise research principles and methods in the context of contemporary policy debate, globalisation and the World Trade Organisation (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b & 4)
- CLO4 : Demonstrate advanced written communication skills by articulating complex legal concepts, theory and analysis using effective research methodologies by completing an appropriate literature review (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b & 3a)

Detailed Assessment Description

Students are required to submit an essay outline for a research essay. For the essay outline, you need: (1) A title of the research essay; (2) Several paragraphs to concisely explain what the research essay will consider and do; (3) A skeleton of essay sections of what you intend to cover; and (4) a list of sources, including primary sources (e.g., legal rules, case law, etc.) and secondary sources (e.g., monographs, journal articles). The outline should be no more than 1,200 words including references.

Research Essay (5000 words)

Assessment Overview

Not specified

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Demonstrate an ability to utilise research principles and methods in the context of contemporary policy debate, globalisation and the World Trade Organisation (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b & 4)
- CLO3 : Engage in advanced critical analysis of the historical and social significance of the World Trade Organisation with consideration of emerging trends through an extended

- research essay (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a & 4)
- CLO4 : Demonstrate advanced written communication skills by articulating complex legal concepts, theory and analysis using effective research methodologies by completing an appropriate literature review (PLOs 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b & 3a)

Detailed Assessment Description

Students are required to submit a 5000 word research essay on a topic chosen from a list of topics to be distributed in the first class. The word limit includes all materials in your essay including footnotes. Bibliography is NOT required. General information on what is required of law students for a research essay is available via MyLaw. Specific marking criteria for this course will be discussed in class. Footnotes should follow the guidelines set out in the Australian Guide to Legal Citation Fourth Edition ('AGLC 4').

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

Please see information about attendance requirements in **Law & Justice Assessment Procedure and Student Information** located in the Other Useful Information tab in the Academic Information field.

Please be advised there will be no classes on public holidays. If your class falls on a public holiday, alternative arrangements will be made by the course convenor to make up the missed class.

General Schedule Information

The course is six four hours lectures in Term 2 2024. The lectures will cover the following topics:

1. The Global Trading System and the WTO
2. Tariffs, QRs and Non-discrimination
3. General Exceptions and Security Exceptions
4. Trade Remedies

5. Non-tariff Barriers: SPS and TBT

6. Services and the Future of the Global Trading System

Staff Details

| Position | Name | Email | Location | Phone | Availability | Equitable Learning Services Contact | Primary Contact |
|----------|--------------|-------|------------------------|-------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Convenor | Weihuan Zhou | | Room 368, Law Building | | | No | Yes |

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy

It is essential that all students undertaking this course read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#). This document includes information on Class Attendance, Late Work, Word Limits, Marking, Special Consideration, Workload, and Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism. More information can also be found at [Assessment & Exam Information](#).

Information regarding Course Outlines are subject to change and students are advised to check updates. If there is a discrepancy between the information posted here and the handbook or the UNSW Law & Justice website, please contact [Student Services via The Nucleus Hub](#) for advice.

UNSW Law & Justice reserves the right to discontinue or vary such courses or staff allocations at any time. If your course is not here, please visit [Handbook](#) for information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Before submitting assessment items all students must read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#).

Special consideration

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Feedback

UNSW Law & Justice appreciates the need for students to have feedback on their progress prior to the last date for withdrawal without failure. All courses will therefore provide feedback to students prior to this date, as well as throughout the course. However, students should note that feedback does not take the form only of formal grades and written comments on written assessments. Rather, formative feedback, which helps students to self-assess, to identify misunderstandings, and to identify areas requiring further work, will occur during class and possibly online. For example, where a teacher asks the class a question, all students should think about how they might answer. Even though not all students will necessarily be able to respond orally, everyone can reflect on their tentative answer in light of the teacher's response and

subsequent class discussion. If you are struggling to understand what is being asked in class, or if your tentative answers prove incorrect and subsequent discussion does not clear things up, then you should continue to ask questions (of yourself, your peers or your teacher). Similarly, you can get a sense of your ability in a course through peer feedback during group work, your teacher's responses to your in-class contributions, and your own response to in-class problems and examples (whether or not you are called on to relay your answer to the class) and also your online activities and responses by others to those activities. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the specific feedback used in this course.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- Student support: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au>

Course improvement

Student feedback is very important to continual course improvement. This is demonstrated within the Faculty of Law & Justice by the implementation of the UNSW online student survey myExperience, which allows students to evaluate their learning experiences in an anonymous way. myExperience survey reports are produced from each survey. They are released to staff after all student assessment results are finalised and released to students. Course convenors will use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the actions taken in response to evaluation feedback in Student Survey.

School Contact Information

Please contact [Nucleus Student Hub](#) for all enquiries. The Nucleus acts as a central communications hub for UNSW and will distribute your enquiry to the best person to respond.