

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** International Economic Law
- **Code:** LLB32
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 4th
- **Teaching Period:** Winter Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

The course examines the core principles and elements of international economic law. It focuses on the two main fields of international economic law, namely the law of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and international investment law, examining their main substantive and procedural rules and identifying relevant similarities and differences. It also examines the role of the European Union (EU) as an actor of international economic law and the main legal rules underlying its involvement therein, as well as their interrelation with international law and domestic law in the legal orders of its Member States.

3. Keywords

WTO; DSS; GATT; GATS; Investment; ICSID; UNCITRAL; BIT; arbitration; EU

4. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recall key legal principles and rules of international economic (trade and investment) law.
2. Identify and understand case law and statutory provisions applicable to specific legal issues.
3. Define foundational concepts in international economic law, such as investor and investment.
4. Interpret legal texts using appropriate methods of interpretation in international law.
5. Understand the relationship between legal norms of different legal orders (domestic, EU and international).
6. Distinguish between competing arguments of different legal orders and identify underlying assumptions.

5. General Skills to Be Acquired

- Apply knowledge in practice
- Retrieve, analyse, and synthesise data and information
- Work in an international context
- Generate new research ideas
- Be critical and self-critical
- Advance free, creative, and causative thinking

6. Course Content (Topics)

1. **Introduction to International Economic Law: Sources and Actors:** Examining the legal sources that are relevant to international economic law – Identifying the actors in international economic law.

2. **The WTO:** Analysing the structure of the WTO, its competences, sources, decision-making procedures and main organs.
3. **The WTO Dispute Settlement System:** Examining the structure and main functions of the WTO Dispute Settlement System (DSS) – Looking into the WTO DSS crisis and the Multi-Party Interim Arbitration Agreement.
4. **Rules on non-Discrimination:** Analysing the Most-Favoured Nation Treatment and National Treatment rules of the GATT and the GATS.
5. **Rules on Market Access:** Analysing the main GATT and GATS provisions on Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers.
6. **Exceptions:** Analysing the main exceptions to the application of the GATT and the GATS.
7. **The EU in the WTO:** Focusing on the EU and the Member States' participation in the WTO and the division of competences between them in the field of international trade.
8. **The concepts of an investor and an investment:** Defining the main concepts underlying the application of international investment law and identifying differences and similarities between different treaties.
9. **Substantive standards of protection (I):** Focusing on the Fair and equitable treatment and full protection and security and free transfer of funds provisions in international investment agreements.
10. **Substantive standards of protection (II):** Examining the provisions in international investment agreements on National treatment, Most-Favoured Nation and Expropriation.
11. **Investor-state arbitration:** Explaining the main rules of international investment arbitration and the different *fora* that can administer them.
12. **The EU and International Investment Law:** Examining the division of competences between the EU and its Member States on investment protection in light of the case law of the Court of Justice of the EU.

7. Teaching Methods

- Lectures.

- Case law workshops.
- Student presentations.
- Guided reading and legal reasoning exercises.

8. Assessment Methods

Method	Weight	Description
Final Written Exam	70%	Essay-type and case-based questions
Mid-Term Assignment/Presentation	20%	Individual or group-based
Participation and Engagement	10%	Constructive attendance, preparedness, contribution

Note: A minimum final exam score of 50% is required to pass.

9. A. Ethics

Students are reminded that all submitted work must comply with the University's academic [integrity policy](#). Plagiarism or unauthorised collaboration will result in disciplinary measures.

B. Course Policies

- Attendance is strongly encouraged.
- All assignments must be submitted on time via the designated platform.
- Special arrangements will be made for students with documented learning or health needs in accordance with university policy.

10. Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- **Use in Teaching:** (e.g. digital slides, audiovisual aids, interactive tools like Mentimeter)
- **Use in Communication:** (e.g. E-learning platform, Zoom/Google Meet for office hours)

- **Digital Resources:** (e.g. online legal databases, podcasts, video lectures)

11. Bibliography

- **Books/E-books**

Peter Van den Bossche and Denise Prévost, *Essentials of WTO Law* (CUP 2021).

Peter Van den Bossche and Werner Zdouc, *The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization* (5th edn, CUP 2022).

Panagiotis Glavinis, *International Economic Law* (Sakkoulas 2008), Parts I and II (in Greek);

Rafael Real-Arcas, *EU Trade Law* (EE 2019).

Ioannis Lianos, *Regulating Trade in Services in the EU and the WTO: Trust, Distrust and Economic Integration* (CUP 2012).

Marcus Klamert, *Services Liberalisation in the EU and the WTO: Concepts, Standards and Regulatory Approaches* (CUP 2015).

Joost Pauwelyn, *Conflict of Norms in Public International Law: How WTO Law Relates to Other Rules of International Law* (CUP 2003).

Rudolf Dolzer and Christoph Schreuer, *Principles of International Investment Law* (3rd edn, OUP 2022).

Joost Pauwelyn, 'The Role of Public International Law in the WTO: How Far Can We Go?' (2001) 95 Am J Int'l L 535.

Joost Pauwelyn, 'A Typology of Multilateral Treaty Obligations: Are WTO Obligations Bilateral or Collective in Nature?' (2003) 14 EJIL 907.

Joost Pauwelyn, *Conflict of Norms in Public International Law: How WTO Law Relates to Other Rules of International Law* (CUP 2003).

James Bacchus and Simon Lester, 'The Rule of Precedent and the Role of the Appellate Body' (2020) 54(2) Journal of World Trade 183.

David Palmeter and Petros Mavroidis, *Dispute Settlement in the WTO: Practice and Procedure* (Kluwer 1999).

Dnes, A. W. (2018). *Principles of law and economics (e-book)* . Edward Elgar.

<https://search.lib.auth.gr/Record/1170646?sid=50101412>

Gilles Muller, 'National Treatment and the GATS: Lessons from Jurisprudence' (2016) 50 Journal of World Trade 819.

Haucap, J. (2024). *Competition and sustainability economic policy and options for reform in antitrust and competition law (e-book)*. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited.

Mitsuo Matsushita, 'A Note on the Appellate Body Report in the Chinese Minerals Export Restrictions Case' (2012) 4(2) Trade Law and Development 200.

Petros Mavroidis, 'The Case for Dropping Preferential Rules of Origin' (2018) 52(1) Journal of World Trade 1.

Henrik Andersen, 'Protection of Non-Trade Values in WTO Appellate Body Jurisprudence: Exceptions, Economic Arguments and Eluding Questions' (2015) 18 Journal of International Economic Law 383.

Marco Bronckers and Keith E Maskus, 'China-Raw Materials: A Controversial Step Towards Evenhanded Exploitation of Natural Resources' (2014) 13 World Trade Review 393.

Catherine Gascoigne, 'The Determination of Causation in the Application of Trade Remedies' (2020) 19(S1) World Trade Review 1.

Ji Yeong Yoo, 'Restructuring GATT Balance-of-Payments Safeguards in the WTO System' (2019) 53(4) Journal of World Trade 589.

Friedrich Erlbacher and Tim Maxian Rusche, 'Article 207 TFEU' in Manuel Kellerbauer, Marcus Klamert and Jonathan Tomkin (eds), *The EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. A Commentary* (OUP 2019).

Konstantina Georgaki, 'The EU's Competence over Cross-Border Investment in the Post-Lisbon Era' (2018) 1 European Politeia 125.

Konstantina Georgaki, 'Conflict Resolution between EU Law and Bilateral Investment Treaties of the EU Member States in the Aftermath of *Achmea*' (2022) 41 Yearbook of European Law 374.

Regulation (EU) No 1219/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2012 establishing transitional arrangements for bilateral investment treaties between Member States and third countries.

- **Databases**

Westlaw UK Academic	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
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HeinOnline Academic Core and Kluwer Law International Journal Library	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Beck-online PREMIUM	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Oxford Public International Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Dalloz.fr	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
JURIS Zusatzmodul Hochschulen, BGB Staudinger Online	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Kluwer Law Online (30 journals)	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
IAReporter. Investment Arbitration Report	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Cambridge Core (Law)	https://www.cambridge.org/core/browse-subjects/law
EBSCO	https://research.ebsco.com/c/quc7ji/search/advanced/filters?autocorrect=y&isDashboardExpanded=true
ProQuest Central	https://www.proquest.com/central/topicpaths/AbiGlobal_business/0?accountid=8359#0
Springer link	https://link.springer.com/
Taylor & Francis e-books	https://www.taylorfrancis.com/search?subject=SC LW
Taylor & Francis e-journals	https://www.tandfonline.com/subjects/law
The Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises 1800-1926 (Gale)	https://go.gale.com/ps/start.do?p=MOML&u=arist&cookieConsent=true&analyticsOptout=false&aty=ip
Wiley online Library	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/showPublications?startPage=&ConceptID=85