

Course Outline

Course number	RMF131					
Course title	International Trade Law					
Credit points	3 ECTS					
Total hours	75					
Contact hours	24					
Independent studies	51					
Course level	Master					
Prerequisites	N/A					
Category	Mandatory	X	Restricted elective		Free elective	

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Güneş Ünüvar	PhD	Visiting lecturer

COURSE TEACHERS

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Güneş Ünüvar	PhD	Visiting lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the law and practice of the international economic system, with a particular focus on the law of international trade and investment. Students will explore the legal architecture, institutions, principles, and dispute settlement mechanisms underpinning the global trading system, as well as the evolution and contemporary challenges of international investment law. Through a combination of doctrinal analysis, case studies, and critical perspectives, the course addresses both classical elements (such as tariffs, trade remedies, and investment treaties) and emerging themes including digital trade, economic sanctions, and the changing architecture of trade and investment agreements. By the end of the course, students will possess a nuanced understanding of how legal norms shape and are shaped by global economic relations.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Mid-term Exam	30%
Final Exam	70%

Assessment and Grading

Mid-term Assessment (30%): Essay-style, in-class exam

- Students are offered **1-2 essay questions**, covering different themes of the course dealt with in the first week
- They will choose **one question** and submit an **in-class, handwritten essay** (word limit: **500 words**)
- Essays should demonstrate comprehensive legal reasoning and critical analysis
- No books or references would be allowed.

Final Assessment (70%): Take-Home Essay – 48 hours

- Students will be offered **3–4 essay questions** at the end of the course, covering different aspects of trade and investment law.
- They will choose **one question** and submit an essay within **48 hours** (word limit: **1,000 words**).
- Essays should demonstrate comprehensive legal reasoning, engagement with primary materials (treaties, cases), and critical analysis.
- Please note that your exams will be subject to software to scan for AI-generated texts and plagiarism. Only **editorial uses** (language check; grammar) of AI is permitted.

Grading Criteria:

- **Legal accuracy and depth of understanding:** 40%
- **Quality of analysis and argumentation:** 30%
- **Use of sources and evidence (treaties, cases, literature):** 15%
- **Structure, clarity, and style:** 15%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this course, the student has to receive a passing grade from the final exam, and attend **at least** 3 seminars. The use of AI tools is not allowed for text generation in the exam, but they can be used for editorial language or grammar check for texts written entirely by students.

Students should be aware that the information provided in lectures is crucial to finishing the course. Some information relevant to the course may be provided only during the lectures. Presentations uploaded to the Portal may contain only a part of the information provided during the lectures.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	International Trade Law	20
2	International Investment Law	2
3	Recent Developments and Critical Approaches	2

COURSE PLAN – SESSIONS

Session	Session subjects and readings	Lecturer
1	Session 1 (17:30–19:30): Introduction & Basic Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of International Economic Law: trade, investment, finance Historical evolution and institutional framework (GATT/WTO) Key principles: MFN, National Treatment, Transparency Reading: Ch. 1 (<i>International Trade Law: Basic Principles</i>) 	GÜ
2	Session 2 (19:30–21:30): Tariffs, Quotas & Preferential Trade Agreements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tariff bindings and schedules Quantitative restrictions and Article XI GATT PTAs, RTAs, and Article XXIV GATT Reading: Ch. 2 	GÜ
3	Session 3: Trade in Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agreement on Agriculture: pillars and disciplines Domestic support and market access Export subsidies and recent jurisprudence Reading: Ch. 3 	GÜ
4	Session 4: TBT and SPS Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement: legitimacy vs disguised protectionism SPS Agreement: science-based regulation and precautionary principle Case studies: <i>EC – Hormones</i>, <i>US – Tuna II</i> Reading: Ch. 4 	GÜ
5	Session 5: Trade Remedies I – Anti-Dumping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept and procedure: dumping margin, injury, causation WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement Dispute settlement and case examples 	GÜ

Session	Session subjects and readings	Lecturer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Ch. 5 	
6	<p>Session 6: Trade Remedies II – Subsidies, Countervailing Measures & Safeguards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCM Agreement: prohibited and actionable subsidies • Countervailing measures procedure • Safeguards under GATT XIX and the Agreement on Safeguards • Reading: Ch. 6 	GÜ
7	<p>Session 7: TRIPS and Intellectual Property in Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope and objectives of the TRIPS Agreement • Enforcement, flexibilities, and public health (Doha Declaration) • Current debates: IP and COVID-19, green technologies • Reading: Ch. 7 	GÜ
8	<p>Session 8: Trade in Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GATS structure: modes of supply, market access, national treatment • Key jurisprudence and current developments (digital services, data flows) • Reading: Ch. 8 	GÜ
9	<p>Session 9: General Exceptions and Security Exceptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GATT Article XX and XXI: structure and interpretation • Public morals, health, environment – jurisprudential developments • National security and economic coercion • Reading: Ch. 9 	GÜ
10	<p>Session 10: WTO Dispute Settlement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSU procedure and remedies • Compliance, implementation, and Appellate Body crisis • Reform debates and alternatives • Reading: Ch. 10 	GÜ
11	<p>Session 11: International Investment Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical evolution and sources • Structure and content of IIAs: standards of treatment, expropriation, dispute settlement • ISDS mechanisms and reform debates • Reading: Ch. 11–14; Dolzer, Kriebaum, and Schreuer, Ch. I and XII) 	GÜ

Session	Session subjects and readings	Lecturer
12	Session 12: International Economic Law at a Crossroads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New trade architecture: mega-regionals, plurilateralism • Digital trade regulation: data flows, localisation, e-commerce • Economic sanctions and extraterritoriality • Future of trade and investment regimes • Reading: Mini Chapters 2–4 	GÜ

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge:

1. Understand the fundamental principles and sources of international trade law and its institutional framework, particularly the WTO.
2. Identify and critically assess the substantive disciplines governing goods, services, intellectual property, subsidies, and trade remedies.
3. Understand the historical evolution, key concepts, and structural features of international investment law.
4. Explore emerging issues such as digital trade, new-generation trade agreements, and economic sanctions.

Competencies:

5. Interpret and apply relevant treaty provisions, WTO case law, and arbitral decisions in concrete scenarios.
6. Analyse and evaluate legal arguments within trade and investment disputes.
7. Develop a critical perspective on the political economy and reform debates in international economic law.

Skills:

8. Formulate persuasive legal arguments grounded in treaty interpretation and jurisprudence.
9. Conduct independent legal research and synthesize complex doctrinal and policy materials.
10. Write and present advanced legal analyses on contemporary issues in trade and investment law.

By completing the study course and successfully passing examination, the student will be able to:

Learning outcomes	Evaluation criteria		
	(40-69%)	(70-89%)	(90-100%)
Knowledge	The student has acquired only basic knowledge of the course subject. The student lacks understanding of some of the core issues of the course subject.	Overall, the student's knowledge complies with the expectations. However, there are issues that the student does not fully understand.	The student has demonstrated in-depth knowledge and understanding of the issues related to the course subject.

Skills	The student has demonstrated only basic level of skills.	The student has demonstrated good skills.	The student has demonstrated excellent skills.
Competencies	The student can apply the knowledge only at a basic level. The student struggles with assessment and evaluation of legal issues. The student can identify the relevant legal norms. However, the student cannot correctly apply them.	The student can apply the knowledge at a reasonably good level. However, the student does not have the necessary level to be able to fully apply the acquired knowledge independently. The student has some problems to correctly apply the legal norms.	The student is able to apply the knowledge independently and correctly. The student can assess and evaluate legal issues, identify the relevant legal norms, and correctly apply them.

Please analyse the contribution of defined grading criteria to learning outcomes. Number of grading criteria and learning outcomes should correspond to previously defined one.

Grading criteria	Learning outcomes									
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
Mid-term test	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Final exam	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

COURSE LITERATURE

Please note that this list may expand.

Compulsory literature

No.	Author, year, title, publisher
1	Leila Choukroune & James J. Nedumpara, <i>International Economic Law: Text, Cases and Materials</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2022).
2	Rudolph Dolzer, Ursula Kriebaum, and Christoph Schreuer, <i>Principles of International Investment Law</i> (OUP, 3 rd ed., 2022).

Additional literature and sources

No.	Author, year, title, publisher
1.	Peter Van den Bossche & Werner Zdouc, <i>The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2021).
2.	Joost Pauwelyn, Andrew Guzman & Jennifer Hillman, <i>International Trade Law</i> (Aspen, 4th ed., 2020).
3.	B.S. Chimni, <i>Critical Theory and International Economic Law: A Third World Approach to International Law (TWAIL) Perspective</i> , in John Linarelli (ed) <i>Research Handbook on</i>

	Global Justice and International Economic Law, chapter 9, pg. 251-273 (Edward Elgar, 2013).
4.	WTO World Trade Reports: https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/reser_e/wtr_e.htm