Adama Science and Technology University

Department of Law

International Trade Law Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Title: International Trade Law
Course Code: Laws-631
Credit Hours: 3 Hrs. per week
Year: V
Academic Year: 2011/2012
Semester: I

Instructor's Information

Instructor's Name: Samuel Maireg (LL.B, LL.M)
Title: Lecturer at Law
Office Location: Bldg. 507; Room 05

Course Description

International Trade Law is an elective course that deals with the laws and contemporary theory of economic relations between nations. Special emphasis will be placed on economic development as a broad issue. Through a wide variety of cases, texts, and exercises, students will be exposed to the language of international trade law, and to a proper theoretical and problem solving skills set that will allow them to evaluate the wisdom of international economic policies in the future. This is particularly relevant to the historical moment that Ethiopia exists in at present, in her imminent accession to the World Trade Organization. These analytical skills will also allow students to evaluate legal situations arising within the context of the substantive laws regulating

international trade, i.e., those falling within the World Trade Organization framework.

General Course Objectives

On completion of this course, students are expected to:

- Understand and argue the theoretical foundations of international trade law;
- Engage in the policy debate surrounding international trade law;
- Comprehend in detail substantive international trade law rules;
- Identify the role that international trade law plays in economic development;

Methodology

In this course, “active-learning” approach that fosters and stimulates student friendly learning environment will chiefly be the mode of delivery. Hence, the overall process shall be student-centered, interactive, and participatory and practice oriented. Specifically the following major methods will be employed:

- Lecture
- small group discussion
- presentation,

Course Structure and Schedule

The International Trade Law course contains 8 units.

Time	Topics to be covered
Weeks 1-2	**Chapter One: Introduction** • The Concept of Economic Globalization • What is international trade? • What is international Trade Law? • The need for international trade law • The roles of international trade law • The Laws of Absolute and Comparative Advantage • The Bretton Woods Institutions: Background Analysis • Brief introduction to the GATT Rounds of Negotiations (1947-1994)
Weeks 2-3	**Chapter Two: The World Trade Organization (WTO)** • The origins of the WTO • The basic functions of the WTO • The main objectives of the WTO • The basic principles of the WTO • Membership of the WTO • Institutional Structure of the WTO • Decision making in the WTO
Weeks 3-5	**Chapter Tree: Dispute Settlement in the WTO** • The principles and processes of dispute settlement • The institutions of dispute settlement
Week 6	**Chapter Four: The Non-Discrimination Principle of the WTO** • The Most Favored Nation Treatment (MFN) under the GATT 1994 • The Most Favored Nation Treatment (MFN) under the GATS • National Treatment under the GATT 1994 • National Treatment under the GATS
Week 7	**Chapter Five: the Market Access rules of the WTO**

	• Tariff Barriers to Trade in Goods • Nontariff Barriers to Trade in Goods **Chapter Six: the WTO Rules on Unfair Trade** • Dumping and Anti-dumping Measures • Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
Weeks 8-9	**Chapter Seven: General and Specific Exception to the rules of the WTO**
Week 12	**Chapter Eight: Future Challenges of the WTO** • Integration of Developing Countries in to the World Trade System
Week 13	**Chapter Nine: Ethiopia's Accession to the WTO**

Course Assessment

The following are the main assessment strategies to be applied in the evaluation of this course: (1) Mid-Exam, (2) Group Assignment, and (3) Final Exam

Attendance Policy

- At least 75% attendance of the course is required to sit examinations; less than that they risk failing the course.
- Attendance and participation are extremely important for the students to succeed in International Trade Law.
- Apart from achievements in exams, students who actively participate in class would be rewarded.

Reference Materials

Books

1. Jackson, John H., Davey, William J., and Sykes, Alan O. (4th edn.)(2002) Legal Problems of International Economic Relations. West Group.
2. Paul B. Stephen, Julie A. Roin, & Don Wallace Jr. (3rd edn.) (2004) International Business and Economics, Law and Policy (Lexis Nexis)

3. Alan D. Swan, & John F. Murphy, (2nd edn)(1999) Cases and Materials on the Regulation of International Business and Economic Relations(Lexis Nexis)
4. Jeffrey Sachs, The End of Poverty.
5. The Dictionary of Trade Policy Terms (fourth edition) (Prepared by Dr. Walter Goode of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs. It is available on soft copy from the author of these materials.)

Internet Sources

The best is the World Trade Organization's website at www.wto.org
Other useful organizations with useful websites are:

1. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
2. The World Bank
3. The International Monetary Fund
4. The Economist (*The Economist* is a weekly publication dealing with economic and political issues. Its website has current articles relating to international economic issues. It also has a section specific to Africa, and often has articles on economic issues relating to Ethiopia. It would be useful if the instructor incorporates current events into his or her class discussion.