UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

International Law For Economics

2122-3-E3301M209

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will have acquired good knowledge and understanding of the main facets of international trade and investment law.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

In class analysis and discussion of cases will develop students ability in applying the knowledge acquired in the course.

Ability to inform judgments and communication skills

Students, also through discussion with their teacher, team work and in class presentations, shall acquire correct legal terminology and shall reach communicative skills in assessing and discussing situations related to international trade and investment law.

Learning ability

The teaching method, through in class analysis of legal texts and readings, shall enhance students' ability to learn the rules governing economic global relations, allowing them to autonomously update the notions acquired.

Contents

The course aims at providing students with the knowledge needed to fully understand recent trends of international economic relations. This requires, first of all, the knowledge of the legal structure of the international economic community, which shall be described in its historic development, so as to allow a deeper understanding of the present situation and future prospects.

The subject shall be expounded through the discussion of the most relevant issues that international economic law is facing nowadays, such as the need to reform international financial institutions to reflect the rising role of emerging countries; the new forms of aids to development; the control of international financial stability; the law of international investments; the multilateral framework of international trade; the relationship between trade liberalization and the protection of human rights and of the environment.

Detailed program

The following topics shall be dealt with and discussed in class:

- The subjects and normative sources of international economic law in the present stage of international economic relations.

- The structure of the international economic order in the aftermath of the Second World War and its evolution. International monetary relations: from the IMF through the G20.

- The attempt to establish a “New International Economic Order” and the present forms of participation of developing countries to international economic relations (UN General Assembly’s resolutions on the NIEO, the issue of developing countries’ debt, the aid to development in the World Bank’s Group through BIRS and IDA, regional development banks).

- The law of international investments: the notion of “investment” and the main international sources in the subject. ICSID and MIGA. New generation trade and investment treaties; the TTIP negotiation; the CETA.

- International monetary and financial cooperation. In particular: the Bank of International Settlements.

- The protection of fundamental human rights and the environment through social corporate responsibility. OCSE’s Guidelines and UN’s Principles on Business and Human Rights.

- Support to firms’ internationalization in Italy.

- International trade: a) from ITO through the WTO. The fundamental principles of the multilateral trading system.

- b) The extension of the liberalization from goods to services and the circulation of intellectual property rights.

- c) The disputes resolution mechanism of the WTO.

Prerequisites

Teaching methods

Lectures, class discussion, team work, presentations.

During the COVID-19 emergency period lessons will be held remotely asynchronously, with synchronous videoconferencing events.

Assessment methods

Oral exam. Class participation will be valued. Class attendance and presentations/tests during classes could be an

alternative to the oral exam.

During the COVID-19 emergency exams will be online. They will be carried out using the WebEx platform; on the e-learning page of the course there will be a public link to access the examination.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

ELENA SCISO, Appunti di diritto internazionale dell'economia, 4th edition, Giappichelli, Torino, 2021.

Semester

First semester

Teaching language

Italian