UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

International Law for Economics

2324-3-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 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 cope with the effects of the Russian-Ukranian war and of the pandemic crisis, the need 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 crisis of 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 reform of the economic governance of the European Union triggered by the systemic crisis of 2007-2008 and the pandemic.

- 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.

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

- Business and Human Rights: 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; the emergence of mandatory due diligence in the European Union.

- International trade: a) from the 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. The crisis of the multilateral trading system and the prospect for its reform.

- Support to firms’ internationalization in Italy.

Prerequisites

Teaching methods

Frontal teaching (DE): frontal lesson/seminar. Some topical issues may be discussed in seminars held by experts in the sector.

Interactive teaching (DI): Group project: students are offered the opportunity to carry out and present group work aimed at deepening topics covered in class in order to promote the use of soft skills (exposition, synthesis, to coordinate with other classmates) and to develop research capacity.
Self-learning methods: during the lessons, tools that allow the student to continuously update the knowledge learned will be presented (course on legal research held by the university library, digital platforms, podcasts, specialized journals, International and European institutional pages).

Assessment methods

The course ends with an oral examination consisting in questions regarding the arguments examined during the lessons and is ultimately aimed to assess the students' knowledge of the program and their capacity for autonomous reflection with respect to the topic covered.

On a voluntary basis, students will be able to carry out a final written exam based on open questions.

Group project: The objective is to value the capacity of analysis and presentation. This exercise will allow the student to add from 0-2 points to their final vote.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

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

Semester

First semester

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | CLIMATE ACTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS