

HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY
BUSI 404 International Business Law

SYLLABUS

Fall Semester 2008
Monday, Wednesday, 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Instructor: Dr. Stephen E. Medvec	Telephone: 215-637-7700, ext. 3639
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Office Hours Posted or by Appointment	E-mail: smedvec@holyfamily.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of the principles, foundations, and institutions of international law regulating financial, commercial, maritime, and trade transactions across international frontiers. This is private international law, which is distinguished from public international law, or traditional interstate relations, and international organization. International business law includes, but is not limited to, the World Trade Organization (WTO), most-favored nation status, fair trade practices, international conflict of laws, problems of international trade and investment, and the overall legal structure of international economic relations.

Basic reading for the course will be assigned from:

Ray August, *INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW: TEXT, CASES AND READINGS*.
Pearson/Prentice Hall, Fifth Edition, 2008.

Selected library or Internet readings may also be assigned.

Students will be expected to prepare in advance the case law materials for presentation in class. The proper method of preparing case briefs will be explained in class. An example of the case-brief format will be distributed in class. Students also will be required to read articles in international law journals or Foreign Affairs and assess them critically in writing through the rubric of international business legal theory. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. It is the purpose of this course to introduce our students to legal analysis from an international business perspective in order to prepare them for a career in international business management, law school or graduate school.

There will be one mid-term and a final exam.

COURSE OUTCOMES: At the end of this course, the successful student can:

- Describe the relevance of country, regional and global law to international business decision-making
- Analyze the relationship between world events and international law.
- Articulate the ideological and policy differences in international business law with emphasis on Western and Asian countries.

- Evaluate various mechanisms for dispute resolution and describe how they affect the structuring of international business transactions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assessment for this course will be conducted as follows:

- Attendance and participation – 10%. This means *active* class participation in terms of speaking in class, responding to the professor's questions (Socratic Method), not merely attendance, although full attendance without a legitimate excuse for absence is required. Active participation is assessed in terms of the insight and knowledge level expressed according to the following hierarchy:
 1. Refusal to answer the question: "I don't know".
 2. Response does not reflect knowledge of topic underlying the question.
 3. Answers with no refinement, nothing added to material from text or lecture.
 4. Relates question to course material and minimally adds to the discussion.
 5. Contributes new information by way of example that relates to the discussion.
 6. Analysis of a situation that relates to the principles of the discussion material.
 7. Logic clear and persuasive.
 8. Offers a unique insight into the topic under discussion.
- Midterm examination – 25%
- Critical essays – 20% (please refer to Course Outcomes above for the assessment criteria for the written assignment)
- Homework assignments/Case briefs – 10%
- Final examination – 35%

CREDIT HOURS: This is a three-credit course to be offered every other fall semester.

PREREQUISITES. None.

GRADING POLICY: A (94-100%); B+ (90-93%); B (86-89%); C+ (81-85%); C (77-80%); D+ (73-76%); D (70-72%); F (below 70%).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. Those who require accommodations for this course must contact a staff member at the Counseling Center & Disabilities Services Office. Reasonable accommodations requested under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will be provided for in accordance with Holy Family University policy and procedures.

ACADEMIC HONESTY. Holy Family University encourages learners to grow intellectually as well as become responsible citizens of our community. Academic dishonesty subverts this mission and undermines the student's personal and intellectual growth. Therefore, violations of the academic honesty policy outlined in the Holy Family Catalog will result in a failing grade in this course and possible dismissal from the University.

COURSE OUTLINE

This outline is based on the text INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW: TEXT, CASES AND READINGS. Pearson/Prentice Hall, Fourth Edition, 2004.

Week	Topic	Related Sections/Chapters in Text
1	International and Comparative Law	Chapter 1
2	State Responsibility and Environmental Regulation	Chapter 2
3	Dispute Settlement	Chapter 3
4	The Multinational Enterprise	Chapter 4
5	Foreign Investment	Chapter 5
6	Mid Term Examination	----
7	Money and Banking	Chapter 6
8	Trade in Goods	Chapter 7
9	Services and Labor	Chapter 8
10	Intellectual Property	Chapter 9
11	Sales	Chapter 10
12	Transportation	Chapter 11
13	Financing	Chapter 12
14	Taxation	Chapter 13
15	Final Examination	----

Addendum

SOME EXCELLENT WEB SITES TO EXPLORE FOR INTERNATIONAL (BUSINESS) LEGAL SYSTEMS INCLUDE:

The American Society of International Law

<http://www.asil.org/resource/home.htm>

The International Law Institute

<http://www.ili.org>

U.S. Department of State

<http://www.state.gov>

Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment and Development

<http://www.ext.grida.no/ggynet.html>;

International Law and Nuclear Energy: Overview of the Legal Framework

<http://www.iaea.or.at/worldtom/periodical/buttentin.html>

United Nations Treaty Series

<http://www.uncitral.org/english/status.pdf>

OECD, Report of the Committee on International Investments and Multinational Enterprises, Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and the 1997 Recommendation

<http://www.oecd.org/pdf/M00029000/M00020509.pdf>

The World Bank

<http://www.worldbank.org/html>

Bank for International Settlements Basic Texts

<http://www.bis.org/html>

RECOMMENDED JOURNALS:

American Journal of International Law*

American Political Science Review

Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science

Columbia University International Law Journal

Emory International Law Review

Foreign Affairs*

Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies

International Affairs

International and Comparative Law Quarterly

International Conciliation

International Organization

Journal of Conflict Resolution

Journal of International Affairs

Journal of Politics

Orbis*

University of Georgia International Law Journal

University of Texas International Law Journal

*These periodicals are included in the Holy Family University Library collection