

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	WTO LAW AND POLICY		
MODULE CODE	LA4921 [L7]	CREDIT VALUE	10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

- To introduce students to the fundamental legal concepts and principles of international trade law and the theories underpinning its relevance to the global market.
- To emphasise the importance of rules, norms and institutions to the multilateral trading system. To examine past and recent developments in international trade and the role and impact of the WTO, including trade liberalisation, the position of developing countries in the WTO, the effectiveness of the WTO dispute settlement system and regional integration.
- To critically assess how international trade law impacts on national economic and non-economic policies of sovereign states.
- To consider future trends in international and regional trade regulation and learn how the WTO reacts to these via its regulatory framework.

MODULE CONTENT

1. Introduction to WTO Law and Policy
2. Theories of International Economic Relations
3. Regulation of International Trade
4. Trade Dispute Resolution
5. International Trade and Developing Countries
6. Free Trade Agreements and Regional Integration
7. Selected Current Issues facing the Multilateral Trading System

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

1.	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the fundamental concepts, rules and institutions of international trade law
2.	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the sophisticated nature of WTO law and policy and the challenges faced in providing a liberal trading regime as a consequence of changes in global politics and economics
3.	Critically analyse major developments in international trade with a view to future trends in legal trade regulation and policy formation at the WTO
4.	Enhance their ability to prepare, research and analyse material to be covered during the Seminars
5.	Research, critically evaluate and present well-structured arguments in written and oral work.

TEACHING METHODS

Preparation for the workshops will involve extensive research and reading, to consider and critically analyse the set topics and the discussion questions, set in advance, arising from those topics. Students are expected to prepare answers to the discussion questions and present these to, and discuss with, the workshop tutor and workshop group members. In addition to the skills of analysis and research, students are expected to develop and apply skills of analytical discussion, oral expression and writing. Students will engage with other students and staff in online activities, and synchronous and asynchronous workshops, to consider and critically analyse particular sources and engage in discussion leading to development of these skills.

The workshops also give students the opportunity to synthesise in a more dynamic way the independent learning already undertaken and apply principles from various themes covered in the workshop activity sheets.

One workshop may be run online, two weeks before the module starts, to introduce students to module themes and principles in advance of the campus-sessions. The final workshop will take place two-weeks before the submission deadline for coursework and run as a revision session.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an essay (75%) and a presentation/online activity/essay plan (25%).