

Course Goals and content

In 2016, for the first time since before the Second World War, national international trade policies and the international arrangements providing a (relatively weak) regulatory framework have become significant public political issues in virtually all of the core countries of the liberal international trading system. In 2022, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the core powers of the liberal trading system adopted strong (as yet, mostly non-trade) sanctions against Russian interests with many arguing for even more stringent trade sanctions.

This course will draw on, in approximately equal measure, research in: economics; law; and political science/sociology. The technical requirements will be modest. However, we will be deploying standard arguments, theory and empirical research from all three fields, thus, I will assume: some basic knowledge of microeconomic theory; and a willingness to read formal argument in the traditions of all three core fields.

Lecturer



Prof. Douglas Nelson is professor in economics at the Murphy Institute and the Department of Economics at Tulane University. His current research interests are primarily focused on the political economy of trade policy, the empirical link between globalisation and national labour markets, and the law and economics of subsidy policy.

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Course Content

Lectures: By lecture day

- Lecture 1: Course Introduction & Core Political Economy Basics
- Lecture 2: Essential Role of Law in the Support of Markets
- Lecture 3: Reaping the Gains from Trade & Adjusting to Trade
- Lecture 4: Policy Spillovers—The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly
- Lecture 5: Law & Economics of Liberalization Norms
- Lecture 6: Law & Economics of Sovereignty Norms
- Lecture 7: On National Security and Trade
- Lecture 8: Shocking the System—GVCs, China, etc.
- Lecture 9: The Populist Backlash Against Liberal Trade
- Lecture 10: Crisis and Response in the Liberal Trading System

Readings

The readings and lectures in this course seek to develop an understanding of the domestic and international foundations of international trade law. Positive law and economics is a branch of political economy, not a branch of welfare economics.

Available course outlines and reading material can be found under the course listing on the Doctoral Programme webpage.

Grading

Class participation (20%); presentation of published papers (30%); research paper (50%)

Organization

The course is intended for PhD students. A limited number of people with relevant professional or academic interest may be also admitted.

Lecture hours: 25. ECTS: 4.

Timetable

Lectures: Total Number of hours: 25.

Class hours are 10:00-13:00 and 14:00-16:00. Monday – Friday, from Monday 18.07 – Friday 22-07.

This is an intensive course. Please try to do (some) readings already before the course-week starts.

Registration

The tuition fee is **CHF 500**. A limited number of (partial) tuition fee waivers is available for participants from developing countries and WTI partner institutions.

Send your application to:
Phd.applications@wti.org