

WTO Law on Border Measures and Trade Facilitation

Semester:	Spring Semester- FS 2024
Root Number:	446634
ECTS:	3
Lecturer:	Sara Núñez-Évora and Roy Santana
Dates:	22 – 26 January 2024

Room: The is a hybrid course. The course will be held on-site at the World Trade Institute and online on Zoom.

Audience:

- Government officials; Embassy staff; people working for international organizations and NGOs, industry and in legal practice
- Master of Advanced Studies of International Law and Economics (MILE) Students
- Joint LL.M. / Diploma of Advanced Studies Trade and Investment Law (TRAIL+) Students - World Trade Institute / Faculty of Law, Unibe
- Certificate of Advanced Studies / Diploma of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (CAS ILE & DAS ILE) Students - World Trade Institute, Unibe
- Students from different universities across Switzerland

Course Description

The course will introduce students to the main international trade rules on market access for trade in goods, focusing on the key border management measures. Students are expected to acquire a thorough understanding of the rules applicable to different forms of border control measures and to appreciate the challenges faced in applying the WTO rules.

The course will focus on the basic border management measures (tariffs, tariff classification, customs valuation, rules of origin, and quantitative restrictions), including the applicable WTO rules, practice and jurisprudence, as well as practical challenges faced by traders. The course will conclude by providing a brief introduction to the concept of trade facilitation and an overview of the new Trade Facilitation Agreement. The course will also explore, through focused discussions and practical exercises, the legal and practical implications of issues such as Schedules of concessions, bound tariffs, tariff renegotiations under Article XXVIII, other duties and taxes, tariff rate quotas, non-tariff barriers, prohibitions and restrictions, as well as the manner in which the new agreement on Trade Facilitation Agreement seeks to improve the clearance procedures.

This course will be of particular interest to those interested in private sector trading, government negotiations and regulation. It will also be of particular interest to those working in customs compliance matters or on the export side of companies and those supporting such companies as consultants or via institutions like the Chambers of Commerce.

Lecturer

Sara Núñez-Évora

Sara Núñez Évora is the Head of Customs at On AG, a sports apparel and footwear Swiss company. As part of her role, Sara is involved in the set up of the Trade & Customs practice in-house covering a wide range of topics such as tariff classification, customs valuation, preferential treatment, customs brokerage management, audits, customs documentation, etc. Previously, Sara worked for the private sector advising companies on customs topics as well as for international institutions and governments on trade policy in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Roy Santana

Roy Santana is an expert on tariff and customs matters who has worked for the Market Access Division of the World Trade Organization since 2004, including as Secretary of the Committee on Market Access and the Committee on Customs Valuation. He has also provided support to several negotiations and WTO bodies, including the Committee of Participants of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), the 2016 expansion of the ITA, the Negotiating Group on Non-Agricultural Products (NAMA), the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA), and the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF). He has served as a technical liaison in eight disputes under the Dispute Settlement Understanding, contributed to many reports and publications by the WTO Secretariat, and has frequently trained government officials in a number of WTO agreements. Mr. Santana holds an LL.M. in Trade Regulation from New York University (NYU), as well as a degree in Law and a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Costa Rica.

Learning Objectives

- To provide a simple and clear introduction to the basic concepts and features of customs law as applied at the border.
- To provide an introduction to the main pillars of customs law, namely: tariff classification, rules of origin and customs valuation.
- To provide participants with practical examples, relevant case law related to customs law concerning various countries and including WTO case law.
- To provide practical training and hands-on experience in the application of the rules on market access for goods in concrete, true-to-life situations.
- To provide a comprehensive understanding of WTO law on market access for goods, and in particular the practice law on tariffs and quantitative restrictions on both imports and exports.
- To provide a brief introduction to the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Assessment

- Students' knowledge will be assessed on the basis of a take home exam which needs to be completed on an individual basis.
- Take-home assignment made available on 26 January 2024, 16:00 and to be submitted before 27 January 2024, 20:00

Course Overview

Date	Day	Time	Topic
22 Jan.	Monday	10:00 12:00	Tariffs and tariff classification (Roy)
		13:00 15:00	Practical exercise – Tariff classification (Sara)
23 Jan.	Tuesday	10:00 12:00	Rules of origin (Sara)
		13:00 15:00	Practical exercise – Rules of origin (Sara)
24 Jan.	Wednesday	10:00 12:00	Customs valuation (Sara)
		13:00 15:00	Business consideration (Sara)
25 Jan.	Thursday	10:00 12:00	WTO Schedules of concessions and their changes (Roy)
		13:00 15:00	Practical exercise – WTO Schedules (Roy)
26 Jan.	Friday	10:00-12:00	Quantitative restrictions Customs valuation (Roy)
		13:00-15:00	Trade Facilitation Agreement (Roy)
27 Jan.	Saturday	Due 16:00	Case-study paper/exam (Take-home assessment)

MONDAY, 22 JANUARY 2024**Lecturer: Roy Santana****Subject**

- Introduction to tariffs and tariff classification

Topics

- Introduction to customs law and basic concepts
- Tariff classification and the Harmonized System
- General Interpretation Rules
- Tariff measures, including tariff rate quotas
- MFN and preferential duties
- Difference between tariffs and other taxes

Compulsory Reading Material

- World Customs Organization (WCO), *The Harmonized System: A Universal Language for International Trade – 30 Years On* (2018), pp. 5-33, available at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/nomenclature/activities-and-programmes/30-years-hs/hs-compendium.pdf?la=en>
- Van den Bossche, Peter and Zdouc, Werner, (4th edition, 2017), *The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization*, Cambridge University Press, Chapter 6 (Tariff barriers), pp. 415-443; 461-471

Optional Reading Material

- Santana, Roy (2015), *Options for Defining Products Covered by the Environmental Goods Agreement*, BIORES, Volume 9, Number 5, available at <https://ictsd.iisd.org/bridges-news/biores/news/options-for-defining-products-covered-by-the-environmental-goods-agreement>
- Lyons, Timothy, (3rd edition 2018), *EU Customs Law* (Oxford University Press), Chapter 5 (The Common Customs Tariff: Administration and Interpretation)

TUESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2024**Lecturer:** Sara Núñez-Évora**Subject**

- Rules of Origin

Topics

- Rationale
- Difference between the two main types of origin: preferential and non-preferential
- Non-preferential rules: wholly obtained goods and substantial transformation
- Preferential rules: product-specific rules and origin provisions

Compulsory Reading Material

- *Paolo Vergano and Margareta Djordevic, Understanding Rules of Origin - The Coffee Example, International Trade Law & Regulation, Volume 10 Issue 5, September 2004*

Optional Reading Material

- Jerzewska, Anna (2017), Preferential origin regimes must reflect the complexity of global value chains, E15 Initiative, available here: <http://e15initiative.org/blogs/preferential-origin-regimes-must-reflect-the-complexity-of-global-value-chains/>
- Lyons, Timothy, (3rd edition 2018), EU Customs Law (Oxford University Press), Chapter 7 (The Origin of Goods)

WEDNESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2024

Lecturer: Sara Núñez-Évora

Subject

- Customs valuation

Topics

- Customs Valuation
 - Importance and various methods of valuation
 - Transaction value vs. normal value
 - Authorized adjustments
 - Alternative valuation methods

Compulsory Reading Material

- *Sheri Rosenow and Brian J. O'Shea (2010), A Handbook on the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement, Cambridge University Press, First Edition, pp. 1-41 and 94-134.*

Optional Reading Material

- *Santana, Roy (2016), The End of Customs Duties: How far are we from full tariff elimination and what would be the consequences of achieving it?*, *Revue européenne et internationale de droit fiscal*, N° 2016/2, pp. 165-172
- *Lyons, Timothy, (3rd edition 2018), EU Customs Law (Oxford University Press), Chapter 8 (The Valuation of Goods)*

THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2024

Lecturer: Roy Santana

Subject

- WTO Schedules of concessions (AM session)
- Changes to the Schedules of concessions (PM session)

Topics

- WTO Schedules of concessions
- Tariff negotiations
- 1980 Procedures for modification and rectification of Schedules
- Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994
- Transposition of WTO Schedules

Compulsory Reading Material

- WTO Analytical Index, Articles II and XXVIII of the GATT 1994, Practice (WTO), available at https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/ai17_e/gatt1994_art2_oth.pdf and https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/ai17_e/gatt1994_art28_oth.pdf

Optional Reading Material

AM session:

- WTO Analytical Index, Articles II and XXVIII of the GATT 1994, Jurisprudence (WTO), available at https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/ai17_e/gatt1994_art2_jur.pdf and https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/ai17_e/gatt1994_art28_jur.pdf

FRIDAY, 26 JANUARY 2024

Lecturer: Roy Santana

Subject

- Quantitative Restrictions (AM)
- WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (PM)

TopicsQuantitative restrictions (AM session)

- Non-tariff barriers
- Quantitative restrictions; import & export controls
- Articles XI and XIII of the GATT 1994
- Carve outs and exceptions, including Article XX and XXI of the GATT
- Link to the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures

Trade Facilitation (PM session)

- The concept of trade facilitation
- Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Implementation of the TFA

Compulsory Reading MaterialQuantitative restrictions

- Van den Bossche, Peter and Zdouc, Werner, (4th edition, 2017), *The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization*, Cambridge University Press, Chapter 7 (Non-tariff barriers), pp. 478-498 and Chapter 8 (General and security exceptions), pp. 544-582
- WTO Analytical Index, Article XI of the GATT 1994, Practice (WTO), available at https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/ai17_e/gatt1994_art11_oth.pdf

Trade Facilitation

- World Trade Organization (2014), Agreement on Trade Facilitation, WTO document WT/L/940

Optional Reading Material

Quantitative restrictions

- WTO Analytical Index, Articles XI and XIII of the GATT 1994, Jurisprudence (WTO); available at:
https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/ai17_e/gatt1994_art11_jur.pdf
and
https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/ai17_e/gatt1994_art13_jur.pdf
- WTO Analytical Index, Articles XX and XXI of the GATT 1994, Jurisprudence (WTO); available at:
https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/ai17_e/gatt1994_art20_jur.pdf
and
https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/ai17_e/gatt1994_art21_jur.pdf

Trade Facilitation

- Neufeld, Nora (2014), *The Long and Winding Road: How WTO Members Finally Reached a Trade Facilitation Agreement*, World Trade Organization, Staff Working Paper ERSD-2014-06
- WTO Secretariat (2015), *World Trade Report - Speeding up trade: Benefits and challenges of implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement*, pp. 4-10; 32-54; 66-99, available here:
https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/wtr15_e.htm

SATURDAY, 27 JANUARY 29 2024

Take-home assessment due 20:00