THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Department of Economics

Analysis of International Trade Law  Economics 295.13
Fall 2007  W 6:10 — 8:00
ROME 206

Professor Joseph Pelzman  Office — Monroe - 319
Office Hours  W: 4:00 to 5:30 or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course presents an introduction to the economic analysis of international trade law. The primary focus of this course is to critically evaluate the foundations of the WTO legal system. What are the major legal rights and obligations of the US, EU, and LDCs in current international law? How do the trade rules as outlined in the GATT, the WTO, NAFTA and other US Trade legislation promote the principle of free trade? To what extent are they bound by protectionist pressure?

In attempting to answer these questions, the course will investigate if in fact the existing trade laws have created a “constitution” governing the exchange of goods across country borders or are they simply rules designed to constructively order international transactions along the lines of an Orderly Marketing Arrangement (OMA).

Depending on time this course will also discuss the major mechanisms of import controls – tariffs and quotas, MFN obligations and the FTA exception to them, national treatment rules, the basic GATT exceptions for health and environment, the rules on product standards, safeguards and escape clauses, and finally laws designed to permit responses to “unfair” actions of governments or firms engaged in exporting.

Prerequisites: Econ 280 or Econ 283.

COURSE ORGANIZATION:

The lectures are built around a discussion and analysis of the reading material set out in the Casebook. Thus, for each class, please prepare all the readings (Casebook and Documents Supplement) for that particular topic. Classroom participation is, thus, very important.
REQUIRED TEXTS:

The books assigned for this class are essential and should be read thoroughly.


Journal articles and WTO case material will be added and placed on BB for additional insight.

GRADING FOR THE COURSE:

A student’s grade will be based on a semester paper analyzing a current US trade dispute. The paper must not be any longer then 40 pages including all citations. The paper is due on the scheduled final exam date.

NO CLASSES DURING JEWISH HOLIDAYS:

9/12
9/26

These classes will be made up.

READINGS AND LECTURE LIST:

The dates to the right represent the dates when the material is planned to be discussed in class. On occasion we will need additional class time to cover the material. While I do not take class attendance, it is in the student’s best interest to attend all lectures.

READINGS

1. Introduction & Review of Legal Commitments 9/5–9/19

Casebook — Chapters 1, 3 and 4.
Devereaux — Chapters 1 and 2.

2. The Legal Structure of the WTO 10/3–10/10

Casebook — Chapters 5, 6 and 7.
3. **Border Measures** 10/17
   
   Casebook — Chapters 8 and 9.

4. **MFN Treatment and GATT Article I** 10/24
   
   Casebook — Chapters 10 and 11.

5. **National Treatment and GATT Article III** 10/31
   
   Casebook — Chapter 12.

6. **Exceptions to Multilateral Obligations Article XX** 11/7
   
   Casebook — Chapter 13.

7. **SPS and TBT Agreements** 11/14 – 11/21
   
   Casebook — Chapter 14.

8. **Escape Clause** 11/28
   
   Casebook — Chapter 15.

9. **Dumping and Subsidies** 12/5 – make-up
   
   Casebook — Chapters 16, 17 and 18.

TERM PAPERS ARE DUE VIA EMAIL — on the scheduled final exam date