**Saint Petersburg State University**

**Faculty of Economics**

**International Trading System MA programme**

**Module Specification**

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|  | **Basic module information** |  |
|  | **Module title** | Legal aspects of international trade |
|  | **Module code** | 005316 |
|  | **Credit points** | 6 |
|  | **Duration (hours)** | 62 |
|  | **Department** | World Economy |
|  | **Semester** | 3rd semester |

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| 1. **Overview and Aims**
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| **Overview:** This course is designed to introduce students to the legal system governing international economic transactions and international economic relations, particularly centered on the World Trade Organization (WTO), the most significant institution for international trade relations, and its constituent treaty parts such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The focus is on the international trade law and legal aspects of regional integration from historical and modern perspectives. The course explores the WTO Law, its general principles and exceptions, and their application by countries. The students examine legal instruments of the European integration and compare the law of different regional agreements. They also consider debatable issues for the international and regional legal systems as well as dispute settlement mechanism.The **aim** of the course is to introduce a legal system of international economic relations, and first and foremost, regulation of international trade. **Objectives** of the course are the following:* To study basic principles of international economic law;
* To consider legal instruments of European economic integration and
* To compare them with other regional integration groupings;
* To acquire skills of reading and interpreting specific legal texts (WTO and other trade related agreements);
* To qualify economic activity of companies from legal point of view;
* To develop skills for taking part in trade disputes
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| 1. **Module Content**
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| **Part 1. World economy and international economic law.**International economic law as a key instrument of international trade regulation. Core principles of international economic law. Key issues of international trade regulation. Liability in international economic law. Discussions. Case studies.**Part 2. Legal aspects of international trade and regional integration regulation.**Law and Economy: legal instruments of international economic relations and regional integration. Regulation of international trade in goods, services, intellectual property, and capital movement. Legal aspects of regional integration. The WTO law. The legal regime for foreign direct investment. Current trends in international economic relations regulation. Presentations. Discussions. Case studies.**Part 3. International trade disputes settlement.** International dispute settlement bodies. WTO dispute settlement mechanism. WTO dispute settlement mechanism. Simulation game. Case studies. |

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| 1. **Indicative Reading**
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| **Required readings*** ВТО и региональная интеграция: Экономико-правовые основы регулирования / Под ред. Торрент Р., Коваль А.Г. Москва: URSS, 2018.
* The Legal Texts: The Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. World Trade Organization, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
* Torrent R. Legal Aspects of International Economic Relations and Regional Integration, Teaching materials, 2012. (available in Blackboard)
* Dispute Settlement. WTO interactive course. http://www.wto.org/english/res\_e/publications\_e/cd\_dispu\_settl\_e.htm
* Key issues in WTO Dispute Settlement. The first ten years. Ed. by Yerxa R. and B. Wilson. Cambridge University Press, 2005.
 |
| **Optional readings*** Зенкин И. В. Международное торговое право. Центральный издательский дом, 2010.
* A Handbook on the WTO Dispute Settlement System/ Cambridge University Press, 2004.
* Domestic Regulation & Service Trade Liberalization / Ed. A. Mattoo, Ed. P. Sauve. Oxford: Oxford University Press; Washington: Third World Bank, 2003.
* Dispute Settlement Reports 2012. WTO publications. 2014. http://www.wto.org/english/res\_e/publications\_e/dispu\_settl\_reports\_e.htm
* Dispute Settlement. The Course on Dispute Settlement in International Trade, Investment and Intellectual Property. United Nations. Geneva. 2003.
* International Law. Second Edition. Barry Carter and Philipp R. Trimble. New York - London, Little, Brown and Company. 1995.
* International Trading System: Compendium of Teaching Materials (Международная торговая система: сборник учебных материалов) / сост.: С. Ф. Сутырин, О. Ю. Трофименко. СПб.: Европейский Дом, 2011.
* Shaffer G. C. Defending Interests: Public-Private Partnerships in WTO Litigation, Washington D.C.: Brookings Inst Pr, , 2003.
* The Oxford Handbook of International Trade Law / Ed. Daniel Bethlehem, Donald McRae, Rodney Neufeld, Isabelle Van Damme, Oxford University Press, USA, 2009.
* The WTO Dispute Settlement Procedures - 3rd Edition, Cambridge University Press, 2012.
* The WTO and the Regulation of International Trade: Recent Trade Disputes between the European Union and the United States / ed. N. Perdikis, R. Read. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Pub Ltd, 2005.
* WTO Analytical Index: guide to WTO Law and Practice /World Trade Organization (Geneva). - 1st Ed. Lanham: Bernan, Vol. 1, 2, 2003.
* Handbook of International Trade / ed.: E. K. Choi, J. Harrigan. - Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, Vol. I, II, 2003 - 2005.
* The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization: Text, Cases and Materials / P. Bossche. - Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
* The World Trade Organization: Legal, Economic and Political Analisys /ed.: P. F. J. Macrory, A. E. Appleton, M. G. Plummer. Vol.1, 2. New York: Springer Science+Business Media, 2005.
* The WTO in the Twenty-first Century: Dispute Settlement, Negotiations, and Regionalism in Asia / World Trade Organization (Geneva) ; ed. Y. Taniguchi, A. Yanovich, J. Bohanes. Cambridge; New York; Port Melbourne: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
* WTO Appellate Body Repertory of Reports and Awards 1995–2010 – 4th Edition Cambridge University Press, 2011.
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| 1. **Learning outcomes**
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| **Knowledge and understanding**. After studying this module students should be able to: |
| * Understand diverse legal frameworks for international economic relations and regional integration processes;
* Know key principles of the WTO Law and their cohesion with regional trade agreements;
* Demonstrate a critical awareness of modern regulation of different aspects of international economic relations and regional integration;
* Acquire the instruments for the resolution of trade disputes.
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| **Skills, qualities and attributes**. After studying this module students should be able to: |
| * Develop effective strategies for economic actors operating in different and highly competitive markets, including international ones, competing in conditions of a changing institutional milieu and technological changes;
* Provide expertise for decision makers at strategic level by using instrumental tools in the field of financial, economic and social policy, including inter alia, data bases and various internet sources;
* Acquire new research methods based upon main principles of international economic law and pursue complex interdisciplinary applied research of external economic activity;
* Provide legal assessment of activities of companies on international stage;
* Analyze legal issues arising in international economic relations including regional integration;
* Draft legal texts and other documents related to external economic activities, in particular, in the area of international trade;
* Apply norms of WTO and Eurasian Economic Union to economy of Russian regions or sectors;
* Develop legal recommendations for sides in international trade disputes.
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| 1. **Teaching and learning**
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| lectures, workshops, group presentations, in-class tasks and discussions, case studies, simulation game |
| **Total contact hours: 62** |
| pre-readings, preparation of presentations, paper reviews, home written assignments |
| **Total non-contact hours: 154** |

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| 1. **Assessment methods**
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| This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements of the module |
| **Weighting** | **Type** | **Description** |
| 40%  | In-class and home work | Participation in discussions, simulation game and presentations, in-class tasks and home written assignments, case studies |
| 30% | Test | Closed-book final examination of twenty closed questions |
| 30% | Essay | Exam essay on three issues (for each module of the course). |
| **Diagnostic/formative assessment**This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module |
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| **Further information on assessment**This section provides further information on the module’s assessment where appropriate |
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