

SYLLABUS  
International Business Law  
SPRING 2010

Class: BLAW 3670 Int'l Bus                      Room: Stranahan 0131  
Time: 7:20-8:35 MW

Instructor: Mark Davis, Juris Doctorate, Certificate of Int'l Bus. Transactions,  
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Texts: Online Course Packet ONLY

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## **I. Introduction and Course Description**

International business is different and unique from the ordinary business transactions due to the interplay and importance of international law. This class seeks to give a broad and introductory understanding of international business law and the most recent changes from current events.

You will be expected to be prepared for each class, and to take an active role. This means you can expect to be called upon to analyze cases, voice opinions, and argue points of law. Anything in the assigned readings is fair game. Nothing said in class should be relied upon as legal advice. If you think you need a lawyer, hire one.

On exams, you will not be asked simply to recite law or use legal terms in sentences. You must think. You will be asked to reason to logical conclusions based upon your understanding of the law. If you learn how to reason, you will always know how to apply that knowledge to understand the legal implications of your actions or of a situation.

## **II. Course Objectives**

1. To provide broad understanding to international law.
2. To provide an understanding of the interplay between international law and current events.
3. To provide a basic understanding of the mechanics of an international business transaction, including letters of credit and application of the CISG.

### III. Teaching Methodology

Law is taught differently from most classes you may have taken. Primarily, law is taught in the United States through the Socratic method which is a series of questions posed to students for them to reason out the logic of the law. Under the Oxford method, students learn through reading, without instruction, and then reporting back to their professors what they have learned. This class will combine lecture, Socratic, and Oxford styles.

### IV. Course Standards

1. 100% attendance. However smart you may be, you cannot reach your fullest learning potential without attending and participating in class. Thus, 100% class attendance is expected and desired. Given that your commitment to the class may, at times, conflict with a family emergency, sickness, funeral or job interview, you will be granted two absences with a valid, legitimate reason, thereafter each absence costs 5% of your final grade. Beyond those two absences, the choice to attend is yours and the cost of your absence is clear so long as you are willing to pay the price for it.

2. Active and aggressive participation

3. Plagiarism and cheating is grounds for automatic failure. University policy concerning academic integrity will be applied.

### V. Grading

Grading will be done through two written exams (midterm of 25% and final at 50%) and then class participation for another 25%. Class participation is graded through simple contribution. Any contribution equals 10% of the total 25%. Thus, 10 contributions during the semester equates to a 100% as to this 25% of your grade.

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Standard of Performance</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>
A	94-100 Outstanding	4.0
A-	89-93 Excellent	3.67
B+	85-88 Very High Quality	3.33
B	81-84 High Quality	3.0
B-	78-80 Above Average	2.67
C+	75-77 Slightly above average	2.33
C	71-74 Average	2.0
C-	68-70 Slightly below average	1.67
D+	65-67 Slightly above minimum	1.33
D	61-64 Minimal	1.0
D-	58-60 Barely above	0.67

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Home Study Assignment</u>
January	11	Class One: Opening Statement
	13	Class Two: International Law Overview
	18	Martin Luther King Holiday
	20	Class Three: Sources of International Law
	25	Class Four: CISG Overview
	27	Class Five: CISG: Catapillar case
February	1	Class Six: CISG - MCC Marble Case & Parole Evidence.
	3	Class Seven: CISG - Chicago Packers Case & Warranty
	8	Class Eight: CISG - Delchi Carrier Case - Breach & Remedy
	10	Class Nine: CISG - Berry Case - Exclusionary Cl/Enforceability
	15	Class Ten: UN Intro
	17	Class Eleven: WTO Overview
	22	Class Twelve: WTO and the Environment
	24	Class Thirteen: the Banana War
March	1	Class Fourteen - Exam Review
	3	Class Fifteen - Midterm Exam
	8	Spring Break!!
	10	Spring Break!!
	15	Review of Exam
	17	Class Seventeen - Human Rights
	22	Class Eighteen - The Hague and Nuremberg WWII War Crimes
	24	Class Nineteen - Geneva Convention and Guantanamo Bay
	29	Class Twenty - Letters of Credit
	31	Independent Study Project
April	5	Class Twenty One - Letter of Credit Cases
	7	Class Twenty Two - Foreign Corrupt Practices Act
	12	Class TwentyThree - Money and Banking
	14	Class Twenty Four - No Class
	19	Class Twenty Five - Intellectual Property
	21	Class Twenty Six - Might is Right
	26	Class Twenty Seven - Closing Arguments
	28	Class Twenty Eight - Review
May	3	Final Exam

## UT Policy Statement on Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Among the aims of education are the acquisition of knowledge and development of the skills necessary for success in any profession. Activities inconsistent with these aims will not be permitted. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes academic dishonesty. If students are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating they should seek the instructor's advice. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

1. Plagiarizing or representing the words, ideas or information of another person as one's own and not offering proper documentation;
2. Giving or receiving, prior to an examination, any unauthorized information concerning the content of that examination;
3. Referring to or displaying any unauthorized materials inside or outside of the examination room during the course of an examination;
4. Communicating during an examination in any manner with any unauthorized person concerning the examination or any part of it;
5. Giving or receiving substantive aid during the course of an examination;
6. Commencing an examination before the stipulated time or continuing to work on an examination after the announced conclusion of the examination period;
7. Taking, converting, concealing, defacing, damaging or destroying any property related to the preparation or completion of assignments, research or examination;
8. Submitting the same work to fulfill the requirements for more than one course.

While academic integrity is particularly the responsibility of the student, the faculty members also have a responsibility. Assignments and tests should be constructed and proctored so as to discourage academic dishonesty. Faculty members are expected to inform their students explicitly as to what materials and procedures are authorized for use in the preparation of assignments or in examinations (e.g., the use of calculator, computer, text materials, etc.). Should cases of academic dishonesty be found among students, the instructor may choose to counsel the student, or the following sanctions may be imposed:

1. The student may be assigned an F for the work in question.
2. The student may be assigned an F for the course. In this case the instructor should inform the Dean and the student of this action. The Dean will make certain that the student receives the F grade and is not permitted to withdraw from the course.
3. The student may be placed on probation or suspended for some definite period of time, dismissed or expelled by the Dean if either the seriousness of the offense or a record of repeated offenses warrants it. A notation that such a sanction has been imposed will be made part of the student's permanent record. It is expected that the Dean will consult with the instructor and the student in making such a judgment, and that the Dean will notify the student of the sanction imposed and of the appeals procedure.

A student found to be academically dishonest by a faculty member may appeal according to procedures approved by the respective colleges. The procedures for making a final appeal to the Student Grievance Committee may be found in the Student Handbook.