



Universidad  
de Alcalá

SCHOOL OF LAW

# COURSE GUIDE

## International Economic Law

**DEGREE PROGRAMME  
IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY AND BUSINESS  
University of Alcala**

**Academic Year 2025/2026  
Second Year – Term one**

**MODULE**

Course Name:	<b>International Economic Law</b>
Code:	<b>361000</b>
Degree Course:	<b>International Economy and Business</b>
Department and Subject Area:	<b>Department of Legal Sciences <i>Public International Law and International Relations</i></b>
Type:	<b>Compulsory</b>
ECTS Credits:	<b>6 Credits</b>
Year/Term/Timetable:	<b>Second Year – Term One – Morning Session</b>
Course Convener:	<b>Prof. Dr. Francisco Pascual Vives Prof. Dra. Laura Aragonés Molina</b>
Office hours:	<b>Personal meetings with lecturer should be arranged in advance. They will take place in the School of Law. Contact lecturer via email to arrange an appointment in advance.</b>  <b>Prof. Dr. Francisco Pascual Vives</b> f.pascualvives@uah.es <b>Prof. Dra. Laura Aragonés Molina</b> laura.aragones@uah.es
Language of instruction:	<b>English</b>

## 1. PRESENTATION

International economic law is a compulsory course offered in the first term of the second year of the International Economy and Business degree programme.

It introduces students to the realities both of public international law and international economic law, and is part of a set of courses that deal with the legal regulation of international trade flows. As such, it complements International Economic Organizations, a course that is offered in the fourth year of the degree.

The knowledge acquired by students will enable them to advance professionally in the field of international economic relations in the areas of trade and/or finance.

This course is reinforced by the cross-curricular course on "Introduction to International Relations and the European Union" (code 100015), offered also by the Department of Public International Law and International Relations.

Lastly, to get the most out of this course, *students should:*

- Have a basic knowledge of legal issues.
- Use new information and communication technologies (internet, specialized data bases, virtual classroom, etc.).
- Have knowledge of foreign languages (mainly English).
- Have a basic knowledge of Humanities and Social Sciences (History, Geography, etc.)
- Be a regular reader of the media and press.
- *Be prepared to interact (in oral and written form) daily with the lecturer. All communications between students and the lecturer during the term will be conducted in English.*

## 2. COMPETENCES

### **Generic Competences:**

1. Develop a critical and thoughtful acquisition of knowledge.
2. Ability to develop autonomous learning.
3. Ability to seek out solutions to legal problems posed by international business.
4. Ability to use vocabulary specific to international legal matters.

### **Specific competences:**

1. Acquire basic knowledge and understanding of international law through the study of international practice.
2. Identify international problems that arise in international society and offer critical reflections regarding them.
3. Be able to contextualise a specific international economic problem in accordance with legal knowledge acquired.
4. Be able to interrelate knowledge acquired both during the course and knowledge acquired in other courses and even at other educational levels, to offer well developed, creative, integrated arguments.
5. Present theoretical and practical course content clearly and fluently to both large and small group sessions.
6. Be able to draw on and correctly use the knowledge and skills acquired during the course in new situations.

### 3. CONTENT

**Unit I: Introduction to International Economic Law**

**Unit II: The Formation of International Economic Law**

**Unit III: The Subjects of International Economic Law**

**Unit IV: The Application of International Economic Law**

<b>Units</b>	<b>No. Classes</b>
<b>Unit I Introduction to International Economic Law</b>	3 theoretical and practical sessions
<b>Unit II The Formation of International Economic Law</b>	3 theoretical and practical sessions
<b>Unit III The Subjects of International Economic Law</b>	4 theoretical and practical sessions
<b>Unit IV The Application of International Economic Law</b>	4 theoretical and practical sessions

## 4 TEACHING METHOD. ACTIVITIES

### 4.1. Breakdown of classroom teaching and autonomous learning:

Total no. of hours: 150	
<b>Classroom</b>	48 hours of classroom teaching
<b>Autonomous learning</b>	60 hours of individual study
	42 hours devoted to preparing classes, resolving case studies and writing papers

### 4.2. Methodological strategies

The teaching staff has designed a series of different strategies aimed at student acquisition of projected competencies (see Section 2 of the Course Guide).

The learning/teaching process is viewed from a constructivist perspective, in which the student is not a mere recipient of information, but rather an active participant in the learning process, with the lecturer acting as his or her guide.

Students participate in classroom activities and must also work individually or in groups outside the classroom.

All activities are aimed at developing a series of aptitudes and involve putting into practice different skills and competencies (oral and written expression, teamwork, social and communication skills, ability to work autonomously, et. al.).

#### 4.2.1. Classroom sessions

All the activities students engage during the term are part of the learning process and will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation and grading criteria set forth in Section 5.2.

*Active participation by students is essential in this process.*

*Large group sessions:* For the large group sessions, students must have thoroughly read the handbook and other materials prior to each session, as indicated by the lecturer.

As a result of the above, a dynamic class session is expected, with lecturer-student as well as student-student interaction. Students are encouraged to comment on current events and relate them to the course content already studied. The goal is for students to be actively involved in each session.

*Small group sessions:* Small group sessions are devoted mainly to case studies.

Just as in the large group sessions, in order for small group sessions to be interactive, students must attend having already prepared the study of a case proposed by the lecturer. While discussion between students is actively promoted by the lecturer in each session, the main theoretical concepts will be explained.

#### **4.2.2. Educational activities outside the classroom**

*Academic activities organized by the Department:* Each year, the Section of public international law and international relations organises seminars and conferences on Public International Law, European Union Law, and International Relations. These activities give students a broader view of the issues studied in the classroom and complement the knowledge acquired in the academic setting. Participation in at least one of these activities is required. Students may be asked to write a short paper on each activity.

*Individual and/or group tutorials:* Throughout the term, the lecturer holds individual and/or group tutorials with students, as determined by specific needs.

*Autonomous learning:* The work students do on their own is an important part of the learning process (see Section 4.1. of the Course Guide).

*For classroom sessions to advance properly in accordance with the methodology as set forth in this Course Guide, students must read and prepare the case studies and/or other activities as indicated by the lecturer prior to each session.*

Students must also actively participate in group and/or individual activities outside the classroom, in addition to preparing for theoretical exams and the final practical exercise.

### **4.3. Course Materials and Resources**

*Students must bring the recommended course handbook with them to the classroom. In compliance with copyright regulations, no handbooks may be photocopied or downloaded from webpages without appropriate author permission.*

Additional materials may be recommended and will be offered to students through the course's virtual classroom. Students are advised to regularly consult the virtual platform.

## **5. EVALUATION**

### **5.1. Evaluation Criteria**

- Acquisition and comprehension of basic knowledge covered in the course.
- Appropriate use of this knowledge in problem-solving and analysis of new situations.
- Ability to express in English theoretical and practical content succinctly, clearly and correctly, both orally and in writing.
- Ability to correlate and apply acquired concepts to practical situations.
- Appropriate use of legal resources and case law applicable to the practical cases presented.
- Class attendance and full completion of assigned work and exercises.
- Legal reasoning based on reflection, and comprehension of knowledge acquired both in writing and orally in class activities.

## 5.2. Evaluation procedure

There are two evaluation options for determining whether a student passes the course:

- A) Continuous evaluation
- B) Final evaluation

Under both options, students have two final exam possibilities: the final exam and an extraordinary final exam (second chance).

### A) Continuous Evaluation:

This procedure follows the ECTS credit system, particularly focussing therefore on monitoring students' work and inciting reflective, critical and autonomous learning.

- *Class attendance*

Regular class attendance is a prerequisite for learning and for being able to properly monitor student progress. To pass the course under the continuous evaluation option, students must attend at least 90% of all classes. Lecturers keep a record of attendance. *Attendance does not grant any points towards the final evaluation.*

- *Examinations and Grading Criteria*

The continuous evaluation option requires the assessment of the work done by students throughout the term. For this purpose, evidence of student learning is gathered through different exams showing how well students have developed the different skills, based on the evaluation criteria already presented.

The final grade for the course is the result of applying the following grading criteria:

**30%** (3 points out of 10) One theoretical exam is administered during the term. This exam consists of 15 short or multiple-choice questions on the course content.

**20%** (2 points out of 10) Preparation and presentation of an in-depth practical activity on issues of public international law and international economic law. This is a collaborative-group activity.

**20%** (2 points out of 10) Contributions made by the student in class and in practical sessions.

**30%** (3 points out of 10) A final written exam of practical nature. Students are given one hour and fifteen minutes to resolve a case study and may consult the recommended course handbook.

*A minimum grade of 5 points out of 10 points is required to pass. No additional thresholds in the above-mentioned categories are required to pass.*

A student may only be considered a “no show” under the continuous evaluation option if he or she did not perform or turn in any of the different learning and/or evaluation activities.

### **B) Final Evaluation:**

Students who opt for the final evaluation must necessarily apply in writing to the Dean of the School of Economics within the first two weeks of the course term, explaining the reasons preventing them from being able to comply with the continuous evaluation option. Although this is determined on a case-by-case basis, some reasons that would enable the final evaluation option to be applied would be not being able to attend sessions in person, work obligations, family obligations, health reasons or disability.

Students opting for the final evaluation must show that they have acquired the general and specific competencies set forth in the course guide by means of a **FINAL EXAM** consisting of two written parts:

- *Theoretical exam:* 15 to 20 short or multiple-choice questions. Each correct answer is worth 0.5 points and the grade will be the sum of points from all the correct answers. Students cannot use the recommended handbook in this exam.
- *Practical exam:* Students have one hour and fifteen minutes to resolve a practical case. To do so they may use the recommended handbook.

To pass the course, students must receive a minimum grade of 5 (Pass) out of 10, *on each exam*. Once this requirement is met, the final grade will be the average of the grades from each exam.

### **C) Extraordinary Final Exam (second chance):**

Students under both the continuous evaluation and final evaluation options who did not receive a passing grade during the regular evaluation period in accordance with the grading criteria set forth in previous sections, may take a final and extraordinary theoretical-practical exam to be held in May/June.

This extraordinary exam has a similar format than the final exam under the final evaluation (see Section 5.2.B of the Course Guide).

The teaching-learning methodology and the assessment process will be adjusted when necessary, following the guidance of the Diversity Unit, to implement curricular adaptations for students with specific needs.

During the assessment tests, the guidelines set forth in the Regulations Establishing the Rules of Coexistence of the University of Alcalá must be followed, as well as the possible implications of irregularities committed during said tests, including the consequences for academic fraud according to the Student Disciplinary Regulations of the University of Alcalá.

## 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

All materials necessary for both the theoretical and practical classes are found in the following manuals:

### 6. Bibliography

All required materials for this course (both for the theory and practical elements) can be found in the following textbook:

- **LOWE, V., *International Law*, Oxford 2007, Ed. Clarendon Press.**

In order to compare the legal contents studied in English, students shall consult the Spanish textbook:

- JIMÉNEZ PIERNAS, C. (Dir.): *Introducción al Derecho Internacional Público. Práctica de España y de la Unión Europea*, Madrid 2011, Ed. Tecnos.

The following texts are recommended as additional reading:

- JIMÉNEZ PIERNAS, C. (Ed.): *The Legal Practice in International Law and European Community Law. A Spanish Perspective*, Leiden 2007, Ed. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.

- TANZI, A., *A Concise Introduction to International Law*, La Haya 2019, Ed. Eleven International Publishing.

- CRAWFORD, J., *Brownlie's Principles of Public International Law*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed., Oxford 2012, Ed. Oxford University Press.

- CLAPHAM, A., *Brierly's Law of Nations: An Introduction to the Role of International Law in International Relations*, Oxford 2012, Ed. Oxford University Press.

Recommended Website for documentation: <http://dip.uah.es/>

