

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW -- BUS 360

FALL 2010

Instructor: Susanna Monseau

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Class Times: Mondays and Thursdays

Office Hours: Mon/Thurs 1.30 p.m. – 2 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. – 5 p.m., and by appointment

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I. Required Texts and Materials:

August, Mayer and Bixby, International Business Law: Texts, Cases, and Readings (5e) Prentice-Hall. You are not expected to remember the countless facts and laws in this book, rather our focus is on the general issues and major principles of international law.

Stiglitz, Joseph, Making Globalization Work (Norton). We will use this book to focus on the regulatory, political and legal issues which affect globalization.

Readings from these texts should be read before the first class in the week for which the reading is listed, as should any case materials or other sources referred to in the Schedule of Classes and Readings below.

II. Course Objectives:

This course provides an introduction to legal issues involved in international trade and finance. It focuses on providing an understanding of the effective management of legal risk in a global business environment. The course will provide a basic examination of international business law concepts, such as corporate, employment and contract law principles.

III. Course Work and Assignments:

1. Class Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to have read and be prepared to discuss cases and concepts from the text book, Stiglitz and all other assigned readings before class. You are expected to participate in class discussions of cases and recent events in international law. Your participation grade is based on participation and not just on attendance (although without regular attendance it is impossible to earn a passing participation grade). I expect you to make significant contributions to classroom discussions on an ongoing basis that show you grasp the key concepts and can apply them to real-world international business law issues. I also expect that you will be prepared when I call on you in class, volunteer answers to questions, and also ask me questions about the material as well. I do not want you to leave at the end of the period confused about the day's material. **20%** of your final grade is based upon participation in class. Students are also responsible for all

material covered in class as well as any announcements made (for example changes to exam dates).

2. **News Article Study:** Each student will choose a news article to summarize and link to course material. Some examples of good articles will be available. The student can choose to do this assignment on 3 different dates during the semester. If time permits, some articles will be presented to the class. This assignment will make up **10%** of the final grade.
3. **Presentation:** Students will be divided into small groups near the beginning of the semester. Each group will be responsible for the presentation of a chapter in Making Globalization Work. This book focuses on similar topics to the textbook but from a different viewpoint. The presentation should highlight how this book's coverage of issues adds to your understanding. The group presenting should assume everyone has read the chapter in the book and not simply present the book to the class. More detailed instructions for the completion of this assignment will be posted on SOCs and I will be available to consult with groups a week or two before their presentations. This assignment will make up **20%** of the student's final grade for the course. Students in a group will be given the same grade but will be given the chance to assign that grade within the group.
4. **Final Report/Paper:** Students will choose some aspect of globalization and international business law on which to write a report. The area must be interesting and debatable and the report should discuss and explain both sides of the issue, make recommendations and discuss possible solutions. The topic must be cleared with the instructor and can come from the group's presentation and research on Making Globalization Work but will have to add something. More detailed instructions for the completion of this assignment will be posted on SOCs. This project should involve outside research and can be done as a group or individual effort. If it is done as a group project the grade will be assigned to the whole group. The due date for this project is **December 9, 2010**. This assignment will make up **30%** of your final grade.
5. **Exams and Quizzes:** There will be one short answer exam on Chapters 1-4 of the textbook. This exam will constitute **20%** of the student's final grade.

An unexcused failure to take the scheduled exams will result in a student receiving a failing grade for such exam.

Any student caught cheating will be asked to leave the exam and will be prosecuted under the college's policy on cheating.

IV. Grading:

All grading is done using a percentage scale. The percentage scale is converted to a letter grade at the end of the semester.

A 92-100	B+ 88-89	B- 80-81	C 72-77	D+ 68-69	
A- 90-91	B 82-87	C+ 78-79	C- 70-71	D 60-67	F >59

The following is intended to give general guidance on the standards for each letter grade in written work. Rubrics are available on SOCs for the report and presentation assignment:

- A. Ability to understand, and where appropriate, summarize relevant facts correctly. Complete understanding of law, and legal issues contained in the case or problem. Excellent analysis of issues, evidence of quality outside research (where appropriate), sound reasoning and properly argued conclusions. Paper is extremely well written in standard business prose, few if any mistakes of grammar, spelling or punctuation. Sources are properly documented.
- B. Ability to understand, and where appropriate, summarize most relevant facts correctly. Good understanding of law, and legal issues contained in the case or problem. Analysis of issues, evidence of some outside research (where appropriate), generally sound reasoning and conclusions. Paper is well written in standard business prose, some mistakes in grammar and spelling. Sources are properly documented.
- C. Ability to understand, and where appropriate, summarize some relevant facts. Some understanding of law, and legal issues contained in the case or problem. Fairly brief analysis of issues, little evidence of research (where appropriate), basic reasoning and some conclusions. Paper is comprehensible although there are mistakes in grammar and spelling. Sources are not properly documented.
- D. Facts poorly summarized and understood. Little understanding of law and legal issues. Analysis of issues is minimal. Numerous mistakes in grammar and spelling.
- E. Work is poorly completed or not completed at all.

In written assignments, content and writing each account for approximately 50% of the total grade.

V. Some Course Ground Rules:

- All papers are to be handed in to me in hard copy at the beginning of the class in which they are due. I will not accept assignments via email or other electronic means. Papers are to be typed in 12-point legible font, double-spaced. Papers must include page numbers, and must be thoroughly proofread. A clear citation format must be chosen and used consistently. Unless you have been asked to work in groups, all written work is to be your individual effort. Any suspected collaboration will be prosecuted under the College's policy on cheating and will result in an "F" for the assignment.
- You are charged with reading and following the College rules prohibiting plagiarism. Plagiarism results in an automatic "F" for the assignment.
- Grades will be lowered one full grade for each day (including Saturday and Sunday) that an assignment is late. I will review and offer assistance on any draft that is a serious effort if brought to me at least one week before the due date.

- Any group member who is missing from a group project or presentation will receive a grade of zero for that project or presentation.
- The ability to communicate clearly is essential to success in both the business and academic world. I encourage you to seek assistance with your writing. If you are a good writer you may be able to self-edit or have a friend proofread your work. If you are not an “A” writing student then speak to me or go to The Writer’s Place in Forcina Hall for help. If I read your written work and decide that you need help with your writing, I will require you to go to The Writer’s Place. You will need to make an appointment to see a Writer’s Place tutor and include your copy of the tutor’s meeting notes with your assignment when you hand it in. Failure to follow up with The Writer’s Place will result in a grade of zero on all future writing assignments.
- Class begins on time and does not end until the instructor so indicates. Absent an emergency, cell phones and pagers are to be turned off before class begins. **Ringling cell phones are a disruption that will result in the loss of five points from the offender’s final grade.**
- I utilize campus email to send articles and announcements and to contact you if I need to do so. You are responsible for checking your TCNJ email on a regular basis.

VI. Schedule of Classes and Readings:

This is a working outline of the course. For example, we may spend more time on certain topics than others and some of the readings may be supplemented by other material assigned in class. It is your responsibility to make note of any changes to assignments, readings or due dates announced in class.

Week of	Topic and Assignment Due Dates (Student Group Presentations in Bold)	Readings
8/30/10	Introduction to International Business Law	August Ch. 1
9/6/10 (Tuesday follows Monday schedule)	Dispute Settlement Another World and Promises of Development	August Ch. 3 Read WTO v. Antigua (SOCS) Stiglitz Chs. 1-2
9/13/10	State Responsibility and	August Ch. 2

	Environmental Regulation Saving the Planet	Stiglitz Ch. 6
9/20/10	The Multinational Enterprise Newspaper Articles Due 9/23/10	August Ch. 4 Aguinda v. Texaco (SOCS)
9/27/10 9/30/10	The Multinational Corporation Midterm Exam	Stiglitz Ch. 7 August Chs. 1-4
10/4/10	Trade in Goods Making Trade Fair (Trade)	August Ch. 7 Stiglitz Ch. 3
10/11/10	Intellectual Property Patents, Profits and People	August Ch. 9 Stiglitz Ch. 4
FALL BREAK 10/21/10	ENJOY! 10/18/10-10/20/10 Intellectual Property	
10/25/10	Money and Banking Newspaper Articles Due 10/28/10	August Ch. 6
11/1/10	Reforming the Global Reserve System Foreign Investment	Stiglitz Ch. 9 August Ch. 5 PepsiCo in India Case Study (SOCS)
11/8/10	Lifting the Resource Curse Newspaper Articles Due 11/11/10	Stiglitz Ch. 5
11/15/10	The Burden of Debt	Stiglitz Ch. 8

	Services and Labor	August Ch. 8
11/22/10	Making Trade Fair (Labor)	Stiglitz Ch. 3
11/24 – 11/25/10	HAPPY THANKSGIVING	
11/29/10	Transportation, Finance. and Taxation	August Chs. 11, 12,13
12/6/10	Course Review Final Report Due 12/9/10	