

SYLLABUS
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS Law 5392 Section 12976

Professor Samir Foteh

Spring 2026

COURSE MATERIALS

Folsom et al., International Business Transactions: A Problem-Oriented Coursebook (West, most current Ed., ISBN 9781640202566) (cited as "Text" in the following Course Outline) and 2015 Documents Supplement thereto (ISBN 9781640202573) (cited as "Supp." in the following Course Outline) or most current edition.

A link to the required class materials will be provided.

Additional materials will be distributed (without charge) in class from time to time.

Learning Outcomes:

During your time in this course, you will develop competence in the following: • Knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law regulating lawyers' conduct; • Legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem-solving, and written and oral communication related to legal ethics and professional responsibility; • Exercise of proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system; • Reflection upon how to integrate conceptions of professionalism and the lawyer's role into your career; • Recognition of the trends that will influence the future of lawyers' work; and • Other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will consider key elements of contemporary international business law from the standpoint of practicing attorneys based in the U.S.A. as well as other locales in the world. It is designed to identify those elements and to suggest how they may be used most effectively in structuring, negotiating and documenting transnational business transactions.

In addition to relevant U.S. law, particular attention will be given to:

- (1) The World Trade Organization and related agreements,
- (2) NAFTA and other U.S. free trade agreements, and
- (3) The European Union

- (4) The Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC)
- (5) Current trends in international arbitration
- (6) Current events regarding US “Tarrif War”
- (7) Pertinent current events (domestically and internationally)

CLASS PROCEDURE

The class will be devoted primarily to (1) discussing assigned course materials and (2) analyzing assigned transnational business documents and discussing IBT current events. We will function by means of the Presenter/Lecture system described below. In addition to Presenters, I will lecture at least one day each week. Every person who attends class will be

expected to be prepared, but only Presenters will be **required** to present. I will call upon only Presenters and volunteers (and all others as I deem necessary).

ASSIGNMENTS

The topic chronology and reading assignments in the attached outline are provisional only and **subject to change**. Additional readings may be distributed throughout the semester.

PRESENTERS

Commencing with the first day of class in the second week, but excluding the last class day, I will call upon Presenters who will be chosen in a randomly established sequence and designated for each class day on a sheet previously available in class.

Presenters are expected to be fully prepared in all the course materials assigned for their classes, and to attend those classes. If, for any reason, a designated Presenter cannot attend fully prepared for an assigned class, that designated Presenter must (1) arrange for another member of the class to serve as the substitute for the originally designated Presenter and (2) deliver to me, well in advance of the assigned class, a writing (signed by the substitute Presenter) that identifies the substitute Presenter and evidences the undertaking of the substitute Presenter so to serve.

Regardless of the reason for such failure, any designated Presenter who fails to attend class without having so arranged a substitute Presenter, any substitute Presenter who fails to attend class, and any responsible Presenter (designated or substitute) who attends class unprepared, may receive the grade penalty stated below.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the **FINAL PROJECT** but may be raised or lowered, to a level commensurate with the infraction (poor or failure to participate or present), on the basis of class participation/class presentations/attendance. **The FINAL PROJECT** will be explained later in the course.

ATTENDANCE

Any student who attends fewer than 80% of classes will be dropped automatically from the class. Tardiness of 10 minutes or more, and leaving the classroom before the end of the class period, will each count as absence.

QUESTIONS AND VISITS

I may be reached by telephone at 713.256.5588 and by e-mail at sjfoteh@aol.com. I am also available, by appointment only, to meet on campus.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let's Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html.

Recording of Class (required for all courses)

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Center for Students with DisABILITIES](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Syllabus Changes (required for all courses)

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through (*specify how students will be notified of changes*).

Materials in this outline may be slightly off when it comes to page numbers. It was made before I had a copy of the new edition of the text and supplement

COURSE OUTLINE

1st
Week

2nd Week

1.

**COURSE
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1 Dimension of Law (CCM).

Forgue et al., "Who's Who" in Customs and International Trade Law (CCM).

Text pp. 16-21 (Sec. 2.3).

Optional reading:

Unkovic, International Business Law Primer, pp. 115-127 (Secs. I, II) (CCM).

THE INTERNATIONAL LAW CONTEXT.

(a) World Trade Organization.

Reading:

Murphy, The World Trade Organization (CCM).

Structure of the World Trade Organization (CCM).

Flow Chart of WTO's Dispute Settlement Process (CCM).

Text pp. 359-360 (WTO Agreements).

Optional reading:

Text pp. 357-359 (Demeret).

pp. 371-379 (Folsom).

(b) Trade groups.

Reading:

Murphy, Trading Against the Tide (CCM).

Lutz and Kembayer, Ten Years of the WTO (CCM).

(c) **CISG.**

Reading:

Supp. pp. 71-89 (CISG). [Skim, but consider carefully Arts.1-6, 95.]

3rd
Week

3. EXPORT/IMPORT IN GENERAL.

(a) Contract basics.

Reading:

Diagrams of Export Letters of Credit (CCM).

Text pp. 37-47, 60-69 (Introduction 4.0 to Problem 4.1, omitting Stage 3).

Optional reading:

Text pp. 47-59 (Stage 3).

(b) Terms of sale.

Reading:

Obligations Between Seller and Buyer in Incoterms FOB and CIF Sales (CCM).

Text pp. 104-125 (Problem 4.2 to Part B).

(c) Letters of credit: basics.

Reading:

Diagrams of Export Letters of Credit (CCM). [Re-read.]

Specimen Forms of Letters of Credit (CCM).

Text pp. 245-281 (Introduction 5.0 through Questions).

Use as research resource for Problem 5.1:
Supp. pp. 1091-1114 (U.C.C. Art. 5).

4th Week

(d) Letters of credit: fraud.

Reading:

Former Texas U.C.C. Sec. 5.114 (CCM).

Maurice O'Meara Co. v. National Park Bank (CCM).

Sztejn v. J. Henry Schroder Banking Corp. (CCM).

Text pp. 282-300 (Section II to Gao).

Supp. pp. 1108-1109 (U.C.C. Sec. 5-109). [Re-read.]

Optional reading:

Text pp. 301-309 (Gao).

(e) Standby letters of credit.

Reading:

SRS Products Co. v. LG Engineering Co. (CCM).

Text pp. 314-349 (Problem 5.3).

Supp. pp. 1108-1109 (U.C.C. Sec. 5-109).
[Re-read.]

5th
Week

(t) Export sales representation and distribution.

Reading

Export Sales Structures (CCM).

Specimen Form of Transnational Sales Representation Agreement (CCM).

Specimen Form of Transnational Distribution Agreement (CCM).

[Acting as counsel to the parties, Presenters will identify, and attempt to negotiate the removal of, provisions of the specimen forms that are highly disadvantageous to their respective clients.]

Optional reading:

Cohen, Checklist for Preparation of International Distributor and Sales Representative Agreements (CCM).

4. EXPORTING TO THE U.S.A.

(a) U.S. Customs.

Reading:

Classification - Liquidation (CCM).

Text p. 394 (Harmonized Tariff Schedule).

6th Week

(b) Buy American requirements.

Reading:

Letter from Gov. Richards to USTR (CCM).

Text pp. 542-551, 553-563, 568-569 (Sec. II through Questions, omitting Crosby and Grier). [Ignore questions regarding Sec. I.]

Supp. p. 131 (GATT Arts. III(4), III(8)).
pp. 213-225 (Agreement on Government Procurement). [Skim.]

pp. 794-797 (§§ 301, 308, Trade
Agreements Act of 1979).
pp. 883-884 (Buy American Act).
pp. 909-911 (E.O. 10582).

(c) Countervailing duties.

Reading:

U.S. AD and CVD Proceedings (CCM).

Text pp. 571-608 (Introduction 7.0 through
Problem 7.1).

Supp. pp. 132-135, 149-151 (GATT Arts. VI, XVI).
pp. 259-288 (SCM Agreement). [Skim.]
pp. 571-692 (§§ 1671-1677k, Tariff Act of
1930). [Skim very superficially, but
consider carefully the CVD sections
cited in Text readings.]

(d) Anti-dumping duties.

Reading:

U.S. AD and CVD Proceedings (CCM). [Re-read.]

Text pp. 608-643 (Problem 7.2).

Supp. pp. 132-135 (GATT Art. VI). [Re-read.]
pp. 227-247 (Antidumping Agt.). [Skim.]
pp. 571-692 (§§ 1671-1677k, Tariff Act of
1930). [Skim very superficially, but
consider carefully the AD sections
cited in Text readings.]

Optional reading:

Mankiw and Swagel, Antidumping: The Third Rail
of Trade Policy (CCM).

(e) Sec. 201 safeguards.

Reading:

Problem 7.3 (CCM).

Safeguards Agreement (CCM). [Skim.]

§§201-264, Trade Act of 1974 (CCM). [Skim superficially.]

7th Week

5. EXPORTING FROM THE U.S.A.

Reading:

Text pp. 645-682 (Introduction 8.0 and Problem 8.1).

Supp. pp. 923-965, 975-982 (E.A.R., omitting Part 760). [Use as research resource for Problem 8.1.]

Optional reading:

Hopson, How to Avoid the Broad Nature of Export Control Violations (CCM).

6 SECTION 301 AND SUPER 301.

Reading:

United States Section 301 Proceedings (CCM).

Supp. p. 362 (DSU Art. 23).

Optional reading:

Supp. pp. 709-728 (§§301-310, Trade Act of 1974).

8th Week

7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS.

(a) TRIPs.

Reading:

Text pp. 753-767 (Introduction 9.0).
pp. 866-868 (President's Submission).

Supp. pp. 303-330 (TRIPs). [Skim.]

(b) Section 337.

Reading:

Text pp. 844-864 (Problem 9.3 to Part B).

Supp. pp. 525-534 (§337, Tariff Act of 1930 as 19 USC §1337). [Skim, but consider carefully the sections cited in Text readings.]

(c) Special 301.

Reading:

Text pp. 864-866, 868-878 (Part B, omitting President's Submission).

Supp. pp. 705-709 (§182, Trade Act of 1974 as 19 USC §2242).

9th Week

(d) Counterfeit goods.

Reading:

Imitating property is theft (CCM).

Text pp. 804-822 (Problem 9.2 to Part B).

(e) Gray market goods.

Reading:

Examples of Gray Market Sales (CCM).

A. Bourjois & Company, Inc. v. Katzel (CCM).

Diagram of K Mart Corp. v. Cartier, Inc. (CCM).

Text p. 804 (Sec. I). [Re-read.]
pp. 823-844 (Part B).

Supp. pp. 569-571 (§526, Tariff Act of 1930 as 19
USC §1526).

Optional reading:

Bikoff, Wilson and Beyer, New Weapons in the Battle
Against Parallel Imports (CCM).

(f) Licensing.

Reading:

Text pp. 881-886 (Draft License Agreement). [Acting
as counsel to the parties, Presenters will identify, and
attempt to negotiate the removal of, provisions that
are highly disadvantageous to their respective clients.]

(g) Franchising.

Reading:

Specimen Form of Transnational Franchise
Agreement (CCM). [Acting as counsel to the parties,
Presenters will identify, and attempt to negotiate the
removal of, provisions that are highly
disadvantageous to their respective clients.]

Text pp. 768-772 (Sec. II to Glickman).
pp. 787-789 (Hefter and Zeidman).

10th
Week

8 TRANSNATIONAL INVESTMENT.

(a) Investment from the U.S.A.: structures.

Reading:

Text pp. 911-928 (Introduction 10.0 to Questions).

Specimen Structures for Transnational Investment (CCM).

Specimen Form of Transnational Stock Purchase and Option Agreement (CCM) and Closing Documents under SPOA (CCM). [Skim, but focus on the resulting investment structure.]

They sell sea shells (CCM).

Optional reading:

Storm survivors (CCM).

(b) Investment from the U.S.A.: protection.

Reading:

Text pp. 1103-1105 (Part C to BG Group).
pp. 1111-1115 (Insuring the Risk). [Ignore questions concerning Problem 10.6.]

ICSID (CCM).

Murphy, International Energy Disputes: Past, Present and Future (CCM).

Treaty Scoreboard of The Institute for Transnational Arbitration (CCM). [Skim.]

(c) GATS and TRIMs.

Reading:

GATS (comments) (CCM).

GATS (CCM). [Skim superficially.]

TRIMs (comments) (CCM).

11th
Week

Supp. pp. 331-334 (TRIMs). [Skim superficially.]

(d) Investment into the U.S.A.:FINSA.

Reading:

Text pp. 968-980 (Part B). [Ignore questions regarding Problem 10.2.]

Supp. pp. 1025-1034 (Foreign Investment and National Security Act).

(e) Techniques.

Reading:

Specimen Form of Transnational Stock Purchase and Option Agreement (CCM). [Re-read. Acting as counsel to the parties, Presenters will identify, and attempt to negotiate the removal of, provisions that are highly disadvantageous to their respective clients.]

Closing Documents under SPOA (CCM). [Re-read.]

9. ANTI-BRIBERY.

Reading:

Inter-American Convention (CCM). [Skim.]

Text pp. 715-750 (Problem 8.3).

Supp. pp. 91-95 (UN Convention). [Skim.]
pp. 63-69 (OECD Convention). [Skim.]
pp. 1013-1023 (Foreign Corrupt Practices Act).

Optional reading:

Unkovic, International Business Law Primer, pp. 129-138 (Sec. IV) (CCM).

12th Week

10. U.S. SANCTIONS.

Reading:

U.S. Sanctions Against Cuba (CCM).

Text pp. 551-553 (Crosby).
pp. 682-700 (Problem 8.2 to Part B).

Supp. pp. 885-907 (Cuban Assets Control Regulations, Cuban Democracy Act, Helms-Burton Act).
pp. 1189-1190, 1253-1255 (Canada, U.K. Orders).

[Skim Supp. readings but consider carefully the sections cited in Text readings.]

11. U.S. ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION.

Reading:

Abrams v. Baylor College of Medicine (CCM).

Text p. 682-683 (Sec. I). [Re-read.]
pp. 700-715 (Part B).

Supp. pp. 914, 916-921 (50 App. USC §§2402(5)(A) and (B), 2407, 2410).
pp. 965-975 (15 CFR §760.2). [Use as research resource for Part B problem.]

13th Week

12. THE EUROPEAN UNION and G.C.C.

(a) History and organization.

Reading:

Text pp. 1311-1345 (Appendix A).

Optional reading:

Gardner et al., New Treaty, New Influence? (CCM).

Murphy, Structuring Operations in Europe (CCM).

(b) Free internal movement.

Reading:

Text pp. 471-473 (Folsom).
pp. 477-484 (Folsom to Part B).

Optional reading:

E.U. Treaty, Arts. 34-37. (CCM)

(c) Competition rules.

Reading:

Text pp. 790-793 (Folsom).
932-937 (Folsom to Commission).

Optional reading:

Text pp. 938-943 (Commission).

E.U. Treaty, Arts. 101-106 (CCM).

(d) Intellectual property rights.

Reading:

Intellectual Property Rights (CCM).

Text pp. 886-897 (Folsom to Questions).

Optional reading:

E.U. Treaty, Arts. 34-37, 101, 114-118 (CCM).

(e) Harmonization of laws.

Reading:

E.U. Treaty, Arts. 114-118 (CCM).

Optional reading:

E.U. Company Regulation (CCM).

G.C.C. materials to be distributed

14th Week

13. NAFTA/USMCA

(a) Background and general scope.

Reading:

Murphy, The North American Free Trade Agreement (CCM).

The Structure of NAFTA (CCM).

NAFTA in a Nutshell (CCM).

Hills, NAFTA's Economic Upsides (CCM).

Supp. pp. 376-378, 467-480 (NAFTA Chapters 1, 20-22). [Skim superficially.]

Optional reading:

Murphy, Judging the Twinkle in God's Eye (CCM).

Law Practice by U.S. and Canadian Lawyers in Mexico under NAFTA (CCM).

(b) Investment; trade in goods and services; government procurement.

Reading:

U.S. Investment and Services in Mexico under NAFTA (CCM).

NAFTA Chapter 12 (CCM). [Optional]

Text pp. 535-536 (Vargas).
pp. 557-559 (Folsom).
pp. 958-966 (Bryan to Questions).

Supp. pp. 1237-1245 (Mexican Foreign Investment Law).

(c) Intellectual property rights.

Reading:

Text pp. 898-907 (Radway to Questions).

(d) Access to the Mexican energy industry.

Reading:

U.S. Participation in the Mexican Oil and Gas Industry under NAFTA (CCM).

Murphy, U.S. Perspectives on Mexico's Energy Reform (CCM).

Apr. 30

14. FINAL PROJECTS DUE

(This is **NOT** an optional class. Attendance will be required. Papers-HARDCOPY will be turned in at the beginning of class)

