

**MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY  
DIVISION OF LAW  
STUDY GUIDE**

<b>Year and Semester:</b>	<b>First Semester, 2008</b>
<b>Unit Code &amp; Unit Name:</b>	<b>BUSL851 INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW</b>
<b>Credit points:</b>	<b>4 Credit Points</b>
<b>Unit convenor:</b>	<b>Benedict Connors (contact details below)</b>

### **1. ABOUT THIS UNIT**

The unit examines topics in international trade law. It considers both public and private international trade law. Public international trade law deals with the global trading regimes such as the World Trade Organisation in conjunction with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (WTO-GATT), which regime governs trade between nations. Private international trade law deals with the rules governing private party transactions, such as the content of an international contract for the sale of goods, or the methods available for paying for the international delivery of goods, or the rules governing transport of these goods.

### **2. TEACHING STAFF**

**Convenor:** **Benedict Connors**  
Phone: 9850 4883  
Email: [ben.connors@law.mq.edu.au](mailto:ben.connors@law.mq.edu.au)  
Room: W3A 416

### **3. CLASSES AND STUDY TIMES**

The unit will be taught on a weekly basis. Classes will meet on Tuesdays at 3.00 - 6.00 pm, in room X5B134.

The class time will be spent reviewing and discussing the materials identified for reading, in light of unit objectives.

#### 4. REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

##### Textbooks:

Moens, G & Gillies, P (1998) *International Trade and Business : Law, Policy and Ethics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Routledge-Cavendish, Oxford, 2006

(abbreviated MG)

##### Recommended References

**(Later editions of some of these books may be available)**

August, R, *International Business Law – Text, Cases & Readings*, 4<sup>th</sup> edn, Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 2004

Australian Law Reform Commission 1996, *Legal Risk in International Transactions: Australian Law Reform Commission*, AGPS, Canberra.

Burnett, R, *The Law of International Business Transactions*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn, Federation Press, Sydney, 2004

Carr, I, *Principles of International Trade Law*, Cavendish, London, 2005

Chuah, JCT, *Law of international trade*, Sweet & Maxwell, London, 1998

De Cruz, P, *Comparative Law in a Changing World*, Cavendish, 1999

Fisher, S & Fisher, D, 1998, *Export Best Practice – Commercial and Legal Aspects*, Federation Press, 1998

Folsom, RH, Gordon, MV & Spanogle, JA, *International Business Transactions – A Problem – Oriented Course Book*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn, West Publishing, US, 1995

Hudec, RE, *Essays on The Nature of International Trade Law*, Cameron May, 1999

I.C.C. 2000, *Incoterms 2000*, International Chamber of Commerce

Islam, MR, *International Trade Law*, LBC, Sydney, 1999

Islam, MR, *International Trade Law of the WTO*, OUP, 2006

Klotz, JM & Barrett, JA, *International Sales Agreements – An Annotated Drafting and Negotiating Guide*, Kluwer Law International, 1998

Malbon, J, *Exporting*, Business Law Education Centre, Melbourne, 1994

- Mo, J, *International Commercial Law*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn, Lexis Nexis Australia, 2003
- Norton, J, Andenas, M & Foster, M (eds), *The Changing World of International Law in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Tribute to the Late Kenneth R Simmonds*, Kluwer Law, The Hague, 1998
- Pryles, M, Davies, M & Waincymer, J, *International Trade Law – Commentary and Materials*, Thomson Lawbook, Sydney, 2004
- Ramberg, J, *International Commercial Transactions*, Kluwer Law International, 1997
- Sacks, P & Malbon, J (eds) 1992, *Australian Export Manual*, Longman Professional, South Melbourne.
- Sarachek, B, *International Business Law – A Guide For Executives With Case Examples*, Darwin Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1994
- Schaffer, R, Earle, B & Augusti, F, *International Business Law And Its Environment*, 5<sup>th</sup> edn, West Publishing, St Paul, US, 2002
- Seer, G & Smolke-Day, M, *Introduction To International Business Law: Legal Transactions in a Global Economy*, Oceana Publications, New York, 1996
- The Australian Institute of Export 2000, *The Export Handbook*, 17<sup>th</sup> edn, College of International Business, Sydney.
- Zeller, B 1998, *International Commercial Law for Business*, Federation Press, Sydney, 1998

## **RELEVANT WEBSITES**

American Society for International Law – guide to internet resources  
[www.asil.org/resource](http://www.asil.org/resource)

APEC – materials  
[www.apec.org.au](http://www.apec.org.au)

ASIL guide to Electronic Resources for International Law  
<http://www.asil.org/resource/pill.html>

Australia – Australian material  
[www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)

Australian Law Reform Commission 1996 *Legal Risk in International Transactions*  
<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/alrc/publications/reports/80/ALRC80.html>

Update to Guide to International Trade Law Resources on the Internet  
<http://www.1lrx.com/features/trade2.htm>

EU – material  
[www.europa.eu.net](http://www.europa.eu.net)

Eye on International Business Law  
<http://www.laweye.de/>

Georgetown University's Institute of International Economic Law – on WTO  
[www.law.georgetown.edu/iiel/](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/iiel/)

GlobalEdge (Michigan State University) – trade links  
<http://globaledge.msu.edu>

New York University – WTO/GATT links  
[www.law.nyu.edu/library/wto\\_gatt.html](http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/wto_gatt.html)

OECD – materials  
<http://www.oecd.org>

Pace University – International Trade Law and the CISG  
<http://cisg.law.pace.edu>

International Trade Forum, Click on “Trade Law for Business”  
<http://www.tradeforum.org>

International trade strategies – commentaries  
[www.tradestrategies.com.au](http://www.tradestrategies.com.au)

Juris International (Includes text of conventions, more than 160 model contracts,  
WTO Agreements etc)  
<http://www.jurisint.org>

Lex Mercatoria – conventions, rules, links  
[www.lexmercatoria.org](http://www.lexmercatoria.org)

NAFTA – materials  
[www.nafta-sec.alena.org](http://www.nafta-sec.alena.org)

Transnational Law Database – bibliography, *lex mercatoria*  
[www.tldb.de](http://www.tldb.de)

TMC Asser Institute – extensive coverage of international law topics  
[www.asser.nl](http://www.asser.nl)

UNCITRAL – UNICITRAL materials  
[www.uncitral.org](http://www.uncitral.org)

UNIDROIT – private international law topics  
[www.unidroit.org](http://www.unidroit.org)

University of Chicago – links to topics  
[www.lib.uchicago.edu/-llou/forintl.html](http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/-llou/forintl.html)

University of Kent – links  
<http://library.kent.ac.uk/library/lawlinks/>

University of Western Australia – links  
[www.law.ecel.uwa.edu.au/intlaw/international\\_trade\\_law.htm](http://www.law.ecel.uwa.edu.au/intlaw/international_trade_law.htm)

US Trade Rep – US trade policy, cases  
[www.ustr.gov/index.html](http://www.ustr.gov/index.html)

World Trade Law – international trade law links  
[www.worldtradelaw.net](http://www.worldtradelaw.net)

Worldlii – WTO material  
[www.worldlii.org](http://www.worldlii.org)  
[World Trade Organisation – WTO materials](http://www.wto.org)  
[www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)

**The online law databases available through the university homepage are very useful. These include:**

**Case Base** facilitates searches for Australian legal materials, and provides links to these. (If a case is not available through one of the commercial reports – for example, the library does not subscribe to the Australian Law Reports in electronic format – try the parallel BC..... link.)

**Hein Online** is for searching journal articles.

**LexisNexis AU** is for searching local primary (cases, legislation) and secondary (articles) materials.

**LexisNexis** affords a facility for searching for primary and secondary materials from a number of jurisdictions. Although it focuses on US materials it is also a good source for materials from other jurisdictions.

**Westlaw international** also provides a trans jurisdictional search facility for primary and secondary materials.

Some tips for using these databases – click the Natural Language option; key in fewer rather than more words, so as to provide a wider net for searches (for example, take one distinctive word in the title of a case, if the full title does not get a hit); use AND or & in order to narrow a search (for example, waiver & arbitration will ensure that documents retrieved contain both words).

## 5. UNIT WEB PAGE

Study guides and timetable information on this unit can be found at:

<http://www.law.mq.edu.au/html/postgraduate/studyguides.htm>

## **6. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

This unit aims to develop an appreciation of the nature and role of international trade law, an understanding of its legal framework, and the instruments and institutions that underpin its operations. It aims to develop an understanding of the interpretation of the international instruments and the domestic laws that adopt these, and of the interrelationship between international and domestic law.

## **7. GENERIC SKILLS**

The skills sought to be developed by the unit include critical analysis skills, and problem-solving skills, focused on the law and its institutions.

## **8. TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY**

The classes will take the form of a seminar. Ideally, you will read ahead of class.

## **9. ASSESSMENT**

Assessment will be based on an essay of 5,000 (to a maximum of 7,000) words.

You may choose your topic, subject to approval by the unit convenor.

Otherwise, the convenor will suggest a list of possible topics. To be discussed in the first class. Assessment will take the form of an essay or essays.

### **Submission of essays:**

Internal students – place a hard copy of the essay in the PG box outside room W3A 341, or mail to the unit convener (details below).

External students – submit by post if this is more convenient, either by way of the COE folder provided, or mail directly to the unit convener (Benedict Connors, Law Division, Macquarie University, NSW 2109).

In addition, assignments must be emailed to [postgrad@law.mq.edu.au](mailto:postgrad@law.mq.edu.au)

**DUE DATE: Wednesday 5.00 pm 27 June 2008.**

## **10. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Assessment is by way of an independent research project, which will foster the acquisition of knowledge specific to the subject matter of the unit, and the development of the more general skills of law-focused data searching, analysis, synthesis and written expression.

## 11. PLAGIARISM

### THE DANGERS OF PLAGIARISM AND HOW TO AVOID IT

#### *You will be guilty of Plagiarism:*

If you take and use the work of another person without clearly stating or acknowledging your source, you are falsely claiming that material as your own work and committing an act of *PLAGIARISM*. This is a very serious violation of good practice and an offence for which you will be penalised. If you do any of the following in an assignment, or in any piece of work which is to be assessed, *without clearly acknowledging your source(s) for each quotation or piece of borrowed material you are guilty of PLAGIARISM.*

- (a) Copy out part(s) of any document, including computer and web-based material;
- (b) Use or extract someone else's concepts or experimental results or conclusions, even if you put them in your own words;
- (c) Copy out or take ideas or summarise from the work of another student, even if you put the borrowed material in your own words;
- (d) Submit substantially the same final version of any material as a fellow student. On occasions, you may be encouraged to prepare your work with someone else, but the final form of the assignment you hand in must be your own independent endeavour.

There is nothing wrong in using the work of others as a basis for your own work, nor is it evidence of inadequacy on your part, provided you **do not attempt to pass off someone else's work as your own.**

All students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on Plagiarism before commencing any assignments  
<http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/>

## 12. UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GRADING

The University requires all Divisions to adhere to a policy relating to the distribution of grades across high distinction, distinction, credit and pass grades. This means that on occasion a student's raw mark for a unit (ie, the total of their marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as that which they receive on their transcript. This is because the total raw mark may be scaled up or down so that the grades of all students in each unit sit within the distribution bands set down by the University. The policy does not require that any number of students are to be failed in any unit.

### 13. LIBRARY SUPPORT FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS IN LAW

Macquarie University Library offers a wide range of services and resources to postgraduate students. Go to the Library website <http://www.lib.mq.edu.au>. For a complete list of services and resources and for enrolling in Library orientation programs for Law see your Postgraduate Programs Administrator, [Ursula.thurgate@law.mq.edu.au](mailto:Ursula.thurgate@law.mq.edu.au) (phone 9850 4880).

Library services include information on borrowing periods, services to distance students, links to IT Help (the Library's IT support service), and links to training information and training course notes.

Postgraduate students are eligible for a number of additional services. These include the Liaison Librarians . The Liaison Librarians are the first point of contact for Postgraduate students. There is a Liaison Librarian appointed to each Division of the University.

Services offered by your LL include:

- Providing further information on the library services
- Providing individual and group library resource sessions for postgraduate students
- Advising on new database trials being held in the Library
- Advising on appropriate contacts for specific services, such as requesting items not held at the Library from the Document Supply Service
- Preparation of resource guides in print and on the web
- Reference advice (face-to-face, phone and email)

Further information about these services is available from the **Postgraduates** link, listed under **Additional Services** on the Library homepage.

### 14. SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

## **A. Topics Covered (Weekly classes)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Concept of international law (including international trade law). Is international law really state law? Adoption of international rules models into state law. Scope of international trade law. Distinction between soft and hard rules regimes. UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts, and the *lex mercatoria*.

#### **MG CHAP 2**

### **2. INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS**

UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (“CISG”, also known as the Vienna Convention).

#### **MG Chap 1**

### **3. INCOTERMS 2000 – INTERPRETATION OF TRADE TERMS**

Reviews the current edition of the International Chamber of Commerce’s Incoterms – the International Rules for the Interpretation of Trade Terms.

#### **MG Chap 3**

### **4. INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY SEA**

Reviews the regimes (such as The Hague Rules and the Hamburg Rules) governing the international transport of goods by sea.

#### **MG Chap 4**

### **5. INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY AIR AND LAND**

Reviews the international transportation of goods by air (Warsaw Convention, Guadalajara Convention, Montreal Convention), rail and road.

#### **MG Chap 5**

### **6. FINANCING EXPORTS – LETTERS OF CREDIT**

Reviews the financing of exports, focusing on letters of credit and UCP600 (current version of the International Chamber of Commerce Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits).

## **MG Chap 6**

### **7. THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION**

Examines World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a regime known collectively as WTO-GATT.

## **MG Chap 7**

### **8. ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES REGIMES**

Examines the anti-dumping regime (pivoting on Art VI of GATT, in conjunction with the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and the parallel subsidies and countervailing measures regime (Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures).

## **MG Chap 8**

### **9. TRADE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Examines the TRIPS Agreement (Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights 1994).

## **MG Chap 9**

### **10. INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION**

Overviews arbitration as a means for resolving international commercial disputes.

## **MG Chap 10**

