

Course title	Global Business and SDGs				
Responsible person to enter grades	HEIKE Masahiro, YODOGAWA Noriko		開講区分	単位数	
			1st semester	1.0	
Numbering Code		Day・Period, etc.	Fri4(遠隔)	Timetable Slot Code	1J372

Lesson topic

This course covers the latest trends in international trade policies and regulations from three perspectives, namely human rights, environment protection, and economic security. This course also will touch upon recent developments coming from the increasing importance of digital markets.

These trends have been influenced by various factors including geopolitical interests, diplomatic initiatives, industrial policy or civil interest, but they all share the common feature of using corporate and economic activities as “leverage” to achieve objectives in relation to certain initiatives and civil interests. As such, these trends and related regulations have a large impact on corporate activities that, in turn, influence trade. For example, recent trends in supply chain risk management necessitate companies have an accurate understanding, and means of articulating the intricacies, of their global supply chains, allowing them to appropriately adjust to shifts in such trends with timely, company-wide management decisions. Further, it is expected that trade rules on human rights, environment protection, and economic security will be developed by countries either multilaterally, through a plurality (among countries sharing common values) or unilaterally, and with the involvement of non-governmental actors. Following the beginning of the second term of President Trump, the importance of understanding US trade policy is increasing more than ever.

Accordingly, companies are in need to keep track of these new trends in trade, not only separately (i.e., understanding specific trends), but also comprehensively (i.e., understanding how the trends relate to one another and generally impact regulation). As these trends represent important management issues, companies should react strategically by not only complying with applicable rules based on accurate information collection and analysis, but also by participating in the formulation of such rules when possible and appropriate.

Lesson target

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to follow and understand the current trends in trade policies and regulations involving human rights, the environment, and economic security in a systematic manner, and to interpret the economic impact of these trends.

Syllabus and plan

In this course, lectures in each session will be given by attorneys of Nishimura & Asahi belonging to the international trade practice area, including:

- an attorney who engaged in trade negotiations and disputes while working in government agencies such as the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Finance;
- an attorney who engaged in establishment of legislation on economic security, while working in government agencies such as the Ministry of Finance;
- an attorney who has long been involved in issues of human rights and business in an international organization and industrial association; and
- an attorney who has practical experience working with cutting-edge trade policies and regulations in overseas law firms and think tanks.

All sessions will be real-time online classes via Zoom. Connection details will be announced later.

Session 1: Introduction

Session 2: Lecture on Business and Human Rights (1)

Session 3: Lecture on Business and Human Rights (2)

Session 4: Lecture on Business and Environment

Session 5: Lecture on Environment Protection, Human Rights and Investment

Session 6: Lecture on Business and Economic Security (1)

Session 7: Lecture on Business and Economic Security (2)

Session 8: Lecture on Digitalization

Evaluation method

Grading will be based on attendance (50%) and class participation (such as participation in the discussion sections of each session) (50%).

Evaluation baseline

Students should attend classes and show that accurately understand the lecture topics during the in-class discussion.

Notice (include info. on related class)

Previous knowledge and other courses are not a prerequisite, although understanding of basic concepts of international trade is encouraged. Related courses are International Environmental Law, International Labor Law, and WTO Law.

Review and preparation

Before each session, please read recent news articles and summarize questions related to the topics covered in each class.

After each session, please summarize what you learned in class.

Kobe University requires 45 hours of study from students to award one credit, including both in-class instructions as well as study outside classes. Students are required to prepare for each class and complete the review after each class, depending on the respective class goals.

Office hour · Contact information

Please send an email to Masahiro Heike.

Contact details will be notified during the first session of the course.

Message for student

Improvements in Teaching

Text

There is no textbook required for this course. Slides used in each session will be shared with students.

Reference Material

Kojiro Fujii, Taku Nemoto, Kazuho Nakajima, Masahiro Heike, "Human Rights, Environment, and Economic Security: New Trends in International Trade Regulations and Corporate Strategies" Syojihomu (2023) (Japanese)

https://www.shojihomu.co.jp/publishing/details?publish_id=4260&cd=3020&state=new_and_already

Classroom Language

English

Keywords

A Faculty with Professional Experience