

**COURSE:** **LAWS 3207 A – International Transactions**

**TERM:** **Winter 2025**

**PREREQUISITES:** **LAWS 2908 or PAPM 3000, LAWS 2601.**

**CLASS:** **Day & Time:** **Wednesdays 18:00 am to 20:55 am**  
**Room:** **The course is delivered in person**

**INSTRUCTOR:** **Gilles LeVasseur**  
**(CONTRACT)**

**CONTACT:** **Office:** **B442 Loeb Building**  
**Office Hrs:** **Thursday night 21h05 to 22h00**  
**Telephone:** **TBA**

**Email:** [Gilles.levasseur@carleton.ca](mailto:Gilles.levasseur@carleton.ca); [jlgilles.levasseur@sympatico.ca](mailto:jlgilles.levasseur@sympatico.ca)

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Topics may include: the international sale of goods, finance of transnational transactions, international carriage of goods, insurance, agency and trading houses; other forms of trade, e.g., counter-trade, foreign investment; settlement of international disputes by litigation and arbitration.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

International transactions occur between private actors that are based in different jurisdictions. From a legal perspective, they are primarily governed by international contracts. International practices, codes and rules emanating from public and private organizations also articulate the rights and obligations of individuals participating in global trade. Moreover, several international agreements negotiated by states to liberalize economic relations and harmonize domestic legislation play a crucial role in the regulation of international transactions.

Ultimately, international transactions involve dispute resolution mechanisms that must be available if one of the parties to a transaction fails to fulfill its obligations. This course introduces you to the regulation of international transactions by focusing on legal principles that are relevant for specific international business transactions. It includes three main parts.

Part I focuses on the legal environment of international business. It covers issues such as the ethics of international business, international commercial dispute resolution and international trade regulation.

Part II provides a comparative law perspective with respect to legal systems, contract law and international sales law.

Part III addresses specific aspects of international business transactions, namely transport of goods, documentary transactions and international trade finance.

## REQUIRED TEXT

DiMatteo, Larry A. International Business Law and the Environment: A Transactional Approach, 4th ed (London: Routledge, 2020).

## WEB SITE

Course announcements, grades, and other materials will be posted on the course web site on Brightspace. To logon, go to <https://Brightspace.carleton.ca>. Only students registered in the course have access to the site; your Username and Password to sign on are the same as those for your email or Connect account.

## EVALUATION

1. Presentation	25%
2. Written assignment	35%
3. December Examination	40%

### **Explanation of evaluation scheme:**

1. The December exam will be held during the formal examination period (April 2025); the exact date, time and location will be announced by the Scheduling Office during the term.
2. The presentation must be submitted **Wednesday, February 12, at 18:00**. No late acceptance of the presentation.
3. The term paper must be submitted by **Wednesday, March 19, at 18:00**. No late acceptance of the term paper.
4. The details of the both assignments are provided in the assignment segments on Brightspace.

## **LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS**

The penalty for a late assignment is zero if past the due date.

## SYLLABUS

The course syllabus will generally follow the topics as presented in the "Table of Contents" in the text. The general topics and the order in which they are presented are as follows (subject to some variations as required by time constraints):

1. Introduction – Chapter one  
January 8
2. Introduction to international business transactions Ch 1  
January 15
3. Ethics of international business Ch 2  
January 22
4. Strategies for international business Ch 3

January 29

5. International commercial dispute resolution Ch 4  
February 5

6. February International and national trade regulation Ch 5  
February 12

7. Comparative legal systems Ch 8  
February 26

8. March Comparative and international contract law Ch 9  
March 5

9. March International sales law Ch 10 Week 10  
March 12

10. March Transport of goods Ch 11  
March 19

11. March Documentary transactions Ch 12  
March 26

12. March International trade finance Ch 13  
April 2

## READING LIST

The following list contains a selection of books and readings concerning Conflict of Laws which are available at the MacOdrum Library. Although not required reading, students may find these books and readings of use in preparing research papers and in researching topics of particular interest.

### Books:

1. **"International Commercial Law"** by John S. Mo (2003): This book provides a comprehensive overview of international commercial law, covering various aspects of cross-border transactions.
2. **"Transnational Commercial Law: Text, Cases, and Materials"** by Roy Goode, Herbert Kronke, and Ewan McKendrick (2004): A detailed exploration of transnational commercial law, including case studies and materials relevant to international transactions.
3. **"International Trade Law"** by Indira Carr (2014): This text delves into the legal frameworks governing international trade, offering insights into both theory and practice.
4. **"The Law of International Trade"** by Paul Todd (2003): An analysis of the laws affecting international trade, including contracts, transportation, and dispute resolution.
5. **"International Business Transactions: A Problem-Oriented Coursebook"** by Daniel C.K. Chow and Thomas J. Schoenbaum (2015): This coursebook presents a problem-oriented approach to international business transactions, ideal for both students and practitioners.

## Scientific Articles:

1. **"The Responsibility of Individuals for Human Rights Abuses in Internal Conflicts: A Positivist View"** by Bruno Simma and Andreas L. Paulus, *The American Journal of International Law* (1999): This article examines individual accountability for human rights violations within the context of international law.
2. **"Normative Hierarchy in International Law"** by Dinah Shelton, *American Journal of International Law* (2006): An exploration of the hierarchical structures within international legal norms and their implications.
3. **"The Concept of Treaty in International Law"** by Jan Klabbers (1996): A scholarly analysis of treaties' roles and interpretations in international law.
4. **"International Law in Antiquity"** by David J. Bederman (2001): This article provides historical insights into the foundations of international law.
5. **"The Sources of International Law"** by Hugh Thirlway (2014): A comprehensive study on the origins and applications of international legal principles.

## Other Resources:

1. **UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records:** Adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in 2017, this model law facilitates the use of electronic transferable records in international trade.
2. **International Commercial Law:** An overview of international commercial law, including its components and significance in global trade.
3. **Transfer Pricing:** An in-depth look at transfer pricing, a crucial aspect of international transactions involving cross-border pricing arrangements between related entities.
4. **List of Academic Databases and Search Engines:** A comprehensive list of major databases and search engines useful in an academic setting for finding and accessing articles in academic journals, institutional repositories, archives, or other collections of scientific and other articles.
5. **Sourcely:** An AI-powered academic search assistant offering access to over 200 million papers and advanced search filters, streamlining research by finding credible sources, summarizing them, and exporting citations instantly.

These resources should provide a solid foundation for understanding the legal frameworks and scholarly discussions surrounding international transactions in law.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows: <https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

## Pregnancy obligation

Please contact me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the

Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC): <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

### **Religious obligation**

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC): <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact The Paul Merton Centre (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC Website for their deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable) <https://carleton.ca/pmc>

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the Internet. Plagiarism is a serious offence. More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

### **Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/studentsupport/svpolicy/>

### **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: <https://students.carleton.ca/services/accommodation/>

### **Department Policy**

The Department of Law and Legal Studies operates in association with certain policies and procedures. Please review these documents to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations: <https://carleton.ca/law/current-students/>

