The Politics of Trade and Security

Time: Monday 12:40 - 3:40  
Place: Candler Hall 214  
Instructor: Walt Sansot  
Email: walt.sansot@uga.edu  
Office Hours: Monday 11:00 – 12:00 and by appointment

Course Summary

This graduate seminar introduces students to the intersection of strategic trade and national and international security through a detailed examination of U.S. domestic and international strategic trade controls. The thrust of the course is decidedly policy-relevant in nature. The seminar will explore three aspects of strategic trade.

- An overview of U.S. trade policy key trends and terms followed by an introduction to the US export control system and export control reform.
- Historical and international perspectives of export controls through an examination of the origins and demise of the Coordinating Committee (CoCom) and then turns to the informal organizations that comprise the Multilateral Export Control Regime and U.S. international export control assistance programs.
- An examination of the contemporary environment. Students will become familiar with the U.S. Export Administration Regulations (EAR) through a review of key elements, common terms, and practices outlined in these regulations. It concludes with an analysis of emerging technologies and state threats.

Throughout the course students will be challenged to think in terms praxis. The training received in this seminar is designed to prepare students for internships and careers across the export control and broader international policy community including, the U.S. government, international organizations, and private industry. In addition to class discussions and course work, the seminar will include visits from a variety of external speakers with experience working in the field of strategic trade management to offer both policy perspectives and career advice.

Readings

All readings for this course are accessible through the University of Georgia library system or will be provided by the instructor. There is a reasonable reading load for the course. Reading assignments are listed on the syllabus the day they will be discussed in class. Each student is expected to complete the required readings and be prepared to participate actively in discussions.

Course Requirements and Grading Components

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Export Control Violations Case Study</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>MECR and International Assistance Reports</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>February 14th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emerging Issues Presentation and Report</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>April 11th</td>
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Grading Scale

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Professionalism (20%)

A student’s professionalism grade is determined by one’s class participation, attitude toward and enthusiasm for the topic and assignments, contribution to lectures and discussion, interaction with peers and guest speakers, engagement in group activities, personal conduct and correspondence with instructors and all class members. I expect you to be collegial and respectful during all seminar discussions and group activities. Finally, attendance, punctuality, as well as responsibility are the hallmarks of professionalism. That said, please thoroughly review the Coronavirus information listed below and take responsibility for strictly adhering to the updated guidance for self-isolating, quarantining, and reporting.

Export Control Violations Case Study (20%)

The export control violations case study is an individual project comprising a 1-page executive summary and a 10-minute presentation. For this assignment, each student will present (2) export control violations and penalties case studies selected from the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) annual “Don’t Let This Happen to You” report (September 2020). The report may be found at the following link: (https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/documents/bis-guidance-documents/oee/2527-don-t-let-this-happen-to-you-2?format=html). These case studies will be presented throughout the semester on designated dates. Students should review the BIS report and come to class on Week 3, January 22nd prepared to select their case studies and sign-up for a presentation date. The first reports are due Week 4, January 29th. The 1-page executive summary should follow the MIP policy memo format which is located on the course eLC site. Students must provide the instructor with an electronic copy of the report and presentation via email (walt.sansot@uga.edu) and deliver a hard copy of the report and presentation to the instructor at the beginning of class on the date of the presentation.

This review of violations and penalties will provide students with real world context and a growing understanding and appreciation for the role that export controls play in international and national security. Through these presentations, students will become increasingly familiar with the various types of violations, the variety of actors involved ranging from state supported espionage, nefarious individuals, to naïve small industry representatives. These case studies will also showcase the variety of ways controlled technology has been accessed illegally from wanton negligence to honest errors committed across private industry and academia. Students will also gain a better appreciation for the level of stakes involved and hence a more-full understanding of why employment opportunities in the field of export controls are rapidly expanding.
**Multilateral Export Control Regime (MECR) and International Assistance Reports (25%)**

The MECR and International Assistance Report is a group project comprising a 3-5 page report and a 15 minute presentation. Students will work in a small group to draft a report on either one of the organizations that comprise the MECR (Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), or Australia Group (AG), or one of the U.S. export control international assistance programs (Department of State’s Export Control and Related Border Security Program (EXBS) or the Department of Energy’s International Nuclear Export Control Program (INECP). Students should come to class on **Week 3, January 22**nd prepared to select their organization. The MECR and International Assistance reports are due **Week 6, February 12**th. The 3-5 page report should follow the MIP policy memo format which is located on the course eLC site. Students must provide the instructor with an electronic copy of the report and presentation via email ([walt.sansot@uga.edu](mailto:walt.sansot@uga.edu)) and deliver a hard copy of the report and presentation to the instructor at the beginning of class on **Monday, February 12**th.

The MECR and International Assistance reports are designed to expose students to broader international export control efforts. As part of its efforts to inhibit the proliferation of WMD and advanced conventional weapons, the U.S. coordinates export controls with like-minded countries through participation in the four informal organizations that comprise the MECR: WA, NSG, MTCR, and AG. Additionally, the U.S. sponsors programs at the Department of State (ISN / EXBS) and the Department of Energy (INECP) that are geared toward assisting international partners with crafting effective legislation designed to uphold their nonproliferation obligations. Familiarity with the MECR is key to understanding how US domestic export control regulations contribute to a global nonproliferation effort.

**Emerging Issues in Export Controls (35%)**

The emerging issues in export controls is an individual project comprising an 8-10 page report and a 15 minute presentation. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to a variety of emerging issues that promise to influence and broaden the conduct of current strategic trade practices. This project is an opportunity for each student to select one of those issues of particular interest to them and conduct an in-depth analysis. For example, one’s topic may relate to a specific technology, country, industry, or regulation. Additionally, students are encouraged to explore how export controls are related to other areas such as human rights or energy. Students may declare an emerging issues topic at any time throughout the semester, however, the final date to set the subject of one’s topic is **Week 14, April 1**st. All emerging issues reports are due **Week 15, April 8**th. The 8-10 page report should follow the MIP policy report format which is located on the course eLC site. Students must provide the instructor with an electronic copy of the report and presentation via email ([walt.sansot@uga.edu](mailto:walt.sansot@uga.edu)) and deliver a hard copy of the report and presentation to the instructor at the beginning of class on **Monday, April 8**th.

**Administrative Issues**

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Please contact me during the first week of the term if you have a conflict that will prevent you from attending class or completing an assignment on the scheduled date. Make-up assignments are only offered for university-excused absences.
All academic work must meet the standards contained in the University of Georgia’s “Culture of Honesty” (http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm). You are responsible to inform yourself about those standards before performing any academic work. My policy for academic dishonesty is very simple: Don’t plagiarize: If you turn in a written assignment that is (in part) not your own work you will receive a failing grade for the course. Disciplinary proceedings to dismiss you from the University may be initiated against you. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty.

The University of Georgia seeks to provide students with disabilities the opportunity to fully participate in educational programs and services. In keeping with this philosophy, it is University policy that students with documented disabilities receive reasonable accommodations through access to classroom information. If you require special accommodations because of a university-documented condition, please contact me during the first two weeks of the semester and we can work with the Disability Resource Center in order to achieve a positive outcome.

**Course Overview:** The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

**Week 1, January 8**
Course Introduction and Overview

**Week 2, January 15**
No Class
Topic: Trade Policy

Readings:
- Darnell, Joshua L. and Joshua N. K. Massey. 2019. “Attracting the Best and Brightest to Strategic Trade Careers.” *Strategic Trade Review*. 5:8, 93-96.

**Week 3, January 22**
Topic: Multilateral Export Control Regimes

SIGN-UP: Presentation and Report #1

Readings:


SIGN-UP: Presentation and Report #2

**Week 4, January 29th**

**Topic: US Export Control Regulations**

**Readings:**

**Presentation: Violations and Penalties #1 - #4**

**Week 5, February 5th**

**Topic: EU Export Regulations**

**Readings:**

Review (Inspectional Reading):

**Presentation: Violations and Penalties Presentation #5 - #8**

**Week 6, February 12th**
Topic: US Export Licensing Process

DUE: Presentation and Report #2

**Week 7, February 19th**
Topic: Determining Commodity Jurisdiction

Readings:

**Presentation: Violations and Penalties Presentation #9 - #12**

**Week 8, February 26th**
Topic: Export Risk Assessments

Readings:
Presentation: Violations and Penalties Presentation #13 - #15

Week 9, March 4th
No Class – Spring Break

Week 10, March 11th
Topic: Export Risk Assessments

Readings:


Review (Inspectional Reading)

Presentation: Violations and Penalties Presentation #17 - #20
Week 11, March 18th
Topic: Export Risk Assessments

Readings:

Week 12, March 25th
Topic: Performing Export License Assessments and Evaluations

Readings:
- Russia
- Iran
North Korea

SIGN-UP: Presentation and Report #3

**Week 13, April 1st**
Topic: Performing Export License Assessments and Evaluations

**Week 14, April 8th**
Topic: Performing Export License Assessments and Evaluations

**Week 15, April 15th**
Presentation and Report #3: Emerging Issues in Strategic Trade

**Week 16, April 22nd**
Presentation and Report #3: Emerging Issues in Strategic Trade

**Week 17, April 29th**
Semester Overview