



# Environment and Trade

## Course Syllabus

### Learning Objectives

The relationship between international trade and the environment is complex. Governments have emphasized the importance of trade and environmental policies being mutually supportive in order to encourage sustainable development. This link is addressed by a number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), such as those dealing with trade in endangered species, the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, or the transboundary movement of Living Modified Organisms. This interplay is also addressed by the World Trade Organization (WTO), the global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

This course takes a deeper look at the framework set out by the Agreements of the WTO, including its institutional structure, dispute settlement, and how the legal framework accounts for environment-related measures. The course then explores trade-restrictive measures in MEAs, including how these interplay with WTO provisions. Finally, the course surveys a number of Regional Trade Agreements, and how these agreements address the nexus of environment and trade.

### Content & Duration

This online course is composed of 4 lessons which are organized in interactive modules and combine course theory with exercises and interactions to facilitate the learning process. The core content of the lessons is complemented with numerous references to primary sources and additional resources on external websites.

It will take you approximately 2.5 hours to complete the full course, excluding additional materials. This is a self-paced course that allows you to manage your time as you wish. You can navigate the lessons at your convenience and retake them whenever you like.

## Completion Certificate

Take the quiz at the end of the course to assess your learning progress. You are required to answer at least 80% of the assessment questions correctly in order to obtain a course certificate.

Before obtaining the certificate you also need to submit the course survey (your feedback). This survey helps us to improve the course, develop new courses, and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

## Course Outline & Content

### Lesson 1: Introduction

The origins of the WTO and how environment and trade interact through provisions in MEAs and the WTO Agreements.

### Lesson 2: International Framework: The World Trade Organization

The main Agreements of the WTO, the principle of non-discrimination, the WTO's dispute settlement system, and its institutional structure.

### Lesson 3: Trade and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Examples of trade-restrictive measures in MEAs, and how these interact with WTO and other trade obligations.

### Lesson 4: Regional Trade Agreements and the Environment

Environmental provisions and disputes under Regional Trade Agreements – NAFTA/USMCA; the CPTPP, MERCOSUR, and the EU.

Take the free and self-paced course [HERE](#) (login required)