



Tübingen International & European Studies (T-IES)

Doshisha EU Campus European Studies Program

September 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025

Course title:	Policy Issues-28 (The Future of Trade Governance and Sustainable Development: Where do Sustainability Standards and Certifications Go?) 政策トピックス-28 (持続可能性を実現する通商ガバナンスのあり方：サステナブル認証の役割と今後)
Date:	January 13 th , 2025 – January 17 th , 2025
Language of instruction:	English
Lecturer:	Yumiko Okamoto
Contact hours:	Face to Face 13 times, On-demand 2 times

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The theme of this class is ” Where Do Voluntary Sustainability Standards Fit in the Future of Trade Governance and Sustainable Development?”

The multilateral trading system, which has the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its center, stands at a crossroad. Although the WTO is the only international organization dealing with global trade rules, the multilateral impasse has shifted some rule-making away from Geneva to regional trading agreements (RTAs) that cover new and broader areas and trade rules.

As a result of the failure of multilateral efforts to address both environmental and social issues, the voluntary sustainability standards (VSS), which consist of certification schemes, labeling programs, and private standards, emerged rapidly. Fairtrade and Organic Certificates and Standards are some examples. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically SDG 17, identifies international trade as an engine for inclusive and sustainable economic growth. However, the expansion of international trade over the past few decades has fallen short of public expectations. VSS have risen as an important transnational governance tool to make global value chains more sustainable by incorporating social and environmental criteria into the production process.

Do VSS work? If so, how do they work? What challenges do VSS face? Do the WTO and RTAs compete with VSS or complement one another? In the current era of sustainable development, where is trade governance headed?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is therefore fourfold. First, we aim to examine the evolution of trade governance following World War II. The second objective is to explain why a new form of

trade governance has emerged in the era of sustainable development. The third aim is to introduce the theoretical and empirical roles of VSS in achieving sustainable development. Finally, the lecturer and students discuss the appropriate forms of trade governance for the 21st century.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Number of Lesson Contents Assignments	How to Conduct a Lesson	Class Hours
Week 1	Introduction Preparation (60 minutes)	On-demand(watching video)	90 min.
Week 2	What went wrong in the era of globalization? Preparation and Review (90 minutes)	Face-to-face	90 min.
Week 3	What are SDGs? Preparation and Review (90 minutes)	Face-to-face	90 min.
Week 4	Importance of trade governance in achieving SDGs Preparation and Review (90 minutes)	Face-to-face	90 min.
Week 5	The evolution of trade governance since the end of World War II Preparation and Review (90 minutes)	Face-to-face	90 min.
Week 6	Old regionalism Preparation and Review (90 minutes)	Face-to-face	90 min.
Week 7	New regionalism Preparation and Review (90 minutes)	Face-to-face	90 min.
Week 8	Emergence of sustainable standards and certificates Preparation and Review (90 minutes)	Face-to-face	90 min.
Week 9	Case study 1 Fairtrade and organic standards Preparation and Review (90 minutes)	Face-to-face	90 min.
Week 10	Case study 2 FSC or RSP0 or MSC Preparation and Review (90 minutes)	Face-to-face	90 min.
Week 11	Future of trade governance Preparation and Review (90 minutes)	Face-to-face	90 min.
Week 12	Preparation for presentation Preparation for its own presentation (60 minutes)	Face-to-face	90 min.
Week 13	Presentation – Group 1 Review of its own presentation (60 minutes)	Face-to-face	90 min.
Week 14	Presentation – Group 2 Review of its own	Face-to-face	90 min.

	presentation (60 minutes)		
After the Class Period	and comments on students' presentation The revision of its own presentation (60 minutes)	On-demand(watching video)	90 min.

PREREQUISITES

No requirement

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Regularity of attendance 30%

Readiness level 40%

Degree of participation in the class discussion 30%

Final grades are given based on the summation of the above three criteria.

READING (REQUIRED)

References are recommended during the lectures.

INFORMATION ON THE LECTURER

<https://kendb.doshisha.ac.jp/profile/ja.56fd8febd2c55551.html>

OTHER INFORMATION