

Economics 5380-001 / 6380-001
Law and Economics
Spring 2015

Prof. Mark Glick

Class Hours: Monday 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Classroom: OSH 175

Office hours: Before class or by appointment

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Course Overview:

From the Law and Economics Society, quoting from the “Preface of Cooter and Ulen”:

“The economic analysis of law has already had a profound impact on legal scholarship. It has been said that the study of law and economics is the most important development in the field of law in the last fifty years. A course in law and economics has become a part of the standard curriculum in the leading law schools, and most of those law schools have at least one full-time economist as a member of the law faculty. Centers for the study of law and economics have been established at Stanford, Chicago, Columbia, George Mason, Miami, and other distinguished schools of law. A majority of the federal judiciary has received formal training in law and economics in short courses provided by several of these centers. Many of those appointed to the federal bench in the last several years have been academic lawyers who specialized in law and economics—to name only a few, Judges Richard Posner and Frank Easterbrook of the Seventh Circuit; Judge Steven Breyer of the First Circuit [now Supreme Court]; Judge Robert Bork of the D.C. Circuit; Judge Bernard Siegan of the Ninth Circuit; and Justice Antonin Scalia of the United States Supreme Court.”

Course Objectives:

This course will survey the basic applications of microeconomic principles to the common law fields of property, torts, contracts, and criminal law. We will also cover the additional topics of antitrust law and intellectual property law.

Teaching and Learning Methods:

This will be a traditional reading and lecture course. My lecture notes will be available on Canvas. In addition, we will encourage active debate in the classroom. Many topics are highly controversial. You will be encouraged to speak your mind in this class without any fear of your opinions impacting your grade.

Required Books:

Law and Economics, 5th ed., Robert Cooter & Thomas Ulen (“C&U”), and articles and cases posted on the Web.

Optional Books:

Cases and Materials on Law and Economics, David Barnes and Lynn Stout. I will post the required cases. The same cases can be found in the Barnes and Stout text, along with additional materials.

Course Requirements:

Your course grade will consist of a midterm exam worth 50%, and a final exam worth 50%.

Course Schedule:

Consult the modular units in Canvas. I will be loading these approximately one week before each class lecture.

Date	Topic	Modular Unit
1/12	Introduction / Legal Framework	Week 1
1/19	Property	Week 2
1/26	Property	Week 3
2/2	Contracts	Week 4
2/9	Contracts	Week 5
2/16	Torts	Week 6
2/23	Torts	Week 7
3/2	Criminal Law	Week 8
3/9	MIDTERM	
3/16	Antitrust	Week 9
3/23	Antitrust	Week 10
3/30	Antitrust	Week 11
4/6	Intellectual Property	Week 12
4/13	Intellectual Property	Week 13
4/20	Intellectual Property	Week 14
4/27	FINAL EXAM	

Policies:

The Economics Department's policy toward unscholastic behavior is as follows: "Unscholastic behavior (e.g., excessive absences, plagiarism, disruptive behavior) may lead to expulsion from and to failure of the class."

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

(www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

Wellness Statement

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc. can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness – www.wellness.utah.edu; 801-581-7776.