

Course Syllabus

ECON 408: Economic Analysis of Law

Course Instructor

Christina P. Tapia, Ph.D., Visiting Lecturer [ctapia@uw.edu \(mailto:ctapia@uw.edu\)](mailto:ctapia@uw.edu)

Purpose and Goals

The study of economics provides students with a very valuable analytical "tool kit" and the ability to apply the economic way of thinking to various issues. Students interested in law will find that there are many useful applications of economic principles within various career paths that involve the law or working with professionals in the legal field. This course will help students identify these career paths and practice working with "real-world" applications that combine economics and law. To assist students, we will discuss various topics throughout the quarter including: Antitrust, Mergers & Acquisitions, Contracts, Property, Torts, and Market Regulation. Throughout the course, lectures will be presented by both attorneys and economists in order to provide current examples and applications within the practice of law, as well as the underlying economic theory embedded in these areas of law.

Learning Outcomes

1. Learners will have the opportunity to discuss and apply concepts from economics to various areas of the law.
2. Learners will learn from both economists and attorneys about the application of economics in the context of law through various current examples and case studies.
3. Learners will have a good understanding of some applications of economics in law and will be able to better evaluate potential career paths that involve the intersection of law and economics.

Course Structure

Modules and Readings

In addition to providing some introductory material regarding sources of law and some fundamental concepts, this course explores several topics in law and how one can apply concepts in economics to pursue a career path in one of these fields. Each "Module" on Canvas will provide the associated readings and discussions. Throughout the course, we may reference this text by [Cooter & Ulen](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1449082/files/75621245?wrap=1), (<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1449082/files/75621245?wrap=1>) *Law and Economics*. Feel free to use it as a supplemental source as needed. See further below for the Course Schedule.

Assessments

Each module will include an exam OR a short writing project. In addition, each module may include a self-check quiz and/or a group discussion. Grading is discussed further below. The module exam or writing project will be scheduled after the final lecture for each topic. Details regarding each module assessment (including due date) will be posted on Canvas.

Zoom Virtual Classroom

We will use Zoom for our virtual classroom. See the Zoom link in the left-hand menu to access Zoom links. You may also find Zoom meeting links on the class calendar (available in the upper right corner of the course Home page).

Students are strongly encouraged to attend each class session "live" during the scheduled class time as this will be a great opportunity to ask questions in the moment and interact with the instructor. I will post recordings of class lectures on Canvas.

Course Communication

Please visit this [Course Netiquette page \(https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1449082/pages/course-netiquette\)](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1449082/pages/course-netiquette) for guidelines to follow throughout the quarter.

Although we will not be in the same physical classroom, this course offers several ways that you will be able to communicate and connect with others in this course.

- If you have a question about the course, please **start** by reading this **syllabus** carefully, along with any Canvas announcements and any relevant course assignment instructions.
- If you can't find an answer to your question after rereading the syllabus and any relevant instructions, post your question in the "**Community Forum**" (see link in the Course Navigation Menu to the left). Posting your question here means that the answer will be visible to other learners who may have the same question. You can expect responses to questions posted in the Community Forum by the next business day.
- If you have a question or issue of a personal nature, please contact me directly ([ctapia@uw.edu \(mailto:ctapia@uw.edu\)](mailto:ctapia@uw.edu)) and please use your UW email address. I will try to respond within 24 hrs.
- If you need tech support, contact Tech Support for the UW Seattle campus: [help@uw.edu \(mailto:help@uw.edu\)](mailto:help@uw.edu) or (206) 221-5000.

Grading

As noted above, each module will include an exam OR a short writing project. In addition, each module may include short "self-check" quizzes and/or discussion topics. Any discussion and quiz points will be added to your exam/paper grade to determine your total grade (out of 100%) for the module. Your

grade for the course will be calculated as the average of your module grades.

Course Schedule Outline

NOTE: The schedule outlined below may be adjusted and will be supplemented with additional announcements made via Canvas.

Additional information (including lecture slides and/or notes) will be posted on Canvas. In addition, class announcements will be sent through Canvas. *It is your responsibility to check class announcements on Canvas to have the latest information regarding readings, exams, and scheduling. Please be sure to set your Canvas notifications accordingly to hear about the latest announcements and files posted.*

Week One

- Welcome Module
 - Discussion: Getting to Know Each Other (Due: 4/30)
 - Sources of Law (3/30)
- Module 1, Part 1: Antitrust (4/1)

Week Two

- Module 1, Part 1 (cont'd): Antitrust (4/6)
- Module 1, Part 2: Mergers & Acquisitions (4/8)

Week Three

- Module 1, Part 2 (cont'd): Artificial Intelligence (4/13)
- Module 1 (Parts 1 & 2) Exam, 4/15

Week Four

- Module 2: Basic Principles of Law, Contracts (4/20, 4/22)

Week Five

- Module 2 (cont'd): Basic Principles of Law, Contracts (4/27)
 - Discussion of Writing Project - Optional class meeting or time for writing assignment (4/29)

Week Six

- Module 3: Property (5/4, 5/6)

Week Seven

- Module 3 (cont'd): Property (5/11)
 - Discussion of Writing Assignment (5/11)
- Module 4: Market Regulation (5/13)

Week Eight

- Module 4 (cont'd): Market Regulation (5/18, 5/20)

Week Nine

- Module 4 (cont'd): Market Regulation
 - Writing Assignment - (5/25)
- Module 5: Torts (5/27)

Week Ten

- Module 5 (cont'd): Torts (6/1, 6/3)
 - Exam (6/4)

Over the quarter, we will also be hearing from the following speakers:

- Bruce Lamka, J.D.; Partner (retired), Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP
- Chris Nelson, J.D.; Assistant General Counsel, Corporate, External, & Legal Affairs; Microsoft Corporation
- Greg Sivinski, J.D.; Assistant General Counsel, Corporate, External, & Legal Affairs; Microsoft Corporation
- Kriss Sjoblom, Ph.D.; Research Director and Senior Economist, Washington Research Council
- David Griswold, J.D.; General Counsel and CCO; Pacific Current Group