

University of Washington, Department of Economics
ECON 408: Economic Analysis of the Law

Spring 2017 Overall Course Schedule & Outline

Tuesday / Thursday; 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.
Classroom: Raitt Hall 121

Visiting Lecturer: Christina P. Tapia, Ph.D.

Email: ctapia@uw.edu

Office: Savery 341

Office Hours: By appointment

Description:

This course brings together the expertise of several instructors to examine topics in law and economics. Topics include Contracts, Torts, Antitrust, Mergers & Acquisitions, Privacy, Property, 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.

Goals and Objectives:

By the end of the course:

- Students will have the opportunity to discuss and apply concepts from economics to various areas of the law.
- Students will learn from both economists and attorneys about the application of economics in the context of law through various current examples and case studies.
- Students 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. Students contemplating law school will be particularly interested in this course, as will students interested in the application of economics to legal issues.

See course website on Canvas for documents, readings, and announcements posted throughout the quarter.

Course Topics:

Each course topic will have readings and materials posted on the course website and/or distributed in class. Check the Canvas website for posted materials and please contact me (ctapia@uw.edu) if you have any trouble accessing materials.

Note that we will have speakers throughout the quarter. It is important to arrive to class on time in order to avoid disrupting the instructor's presentation, distracting your classmates, and generally to be considerate towards all others in the class.

I. Introduction; Contracts and remedies

March 28, 30

- Introduction to course. Discuss structure of U.S. legal system and sources of law in the U.S.
 - Establish legal framework and context for topics in following weeks.
 - Contracts and remedies
- Bruce Lamka, J.D.
Partner (retired), Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP

II. Contracts and torts: Case studies and additional topics

April 4

- Discussion of cases – a day in the life of a law school student

April 6

- Additional topics related to contracts and torts
- Bruce Lamka, J.D.
Partner (retired), Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP
- Christina P. Tapia, Ph.D.; Visiting Lecturer, U.W.; Economist, Northwest Economics, LLC.

III. Torts

April 11, 13

- Economic analysis of torts.
- Christina P. Tapia, Ph.D.; Visiting Lecturer, U.W.; Economist, Northwest Economics, LLC.

⇒ **Take-home exam posted Friday; due in class on Tuesday.**

IV. Mergers & Acquisitions

April 18, 20

- Discussion of mergers and acquisitions
- Greg Sivinski, J.D.; Assistant General Counsel, Competition Law Group
Microsoft Corporation.

V. Antitrust

April 25, 27

- Discussion of antitrust law, Sherman Act.
- Chris Nelson, J.D.; Assistant General Counsel, Competition Law Group
Microsoft Corporation.

⇒ **In-class exam: Tuesday, May 2nd (M&A and Antitrust).**

VI. Privacy Law

May 4

- Discussion of privacy law and related issues, particularly within the context of software and technology.
- Sue Glueck, J.D., C.I.P.P. (Certified Information Privacy Professional);
Academic Relations Director, Microsoft Corporation.
Previously Assistant General Counsel, Microsoft Corporation.

VII. Property

May 9, 11, 16

- Economic analysis of property law and economic theory surrounding property rights.
- Kriss Sjoblom, Ph.D.; Research Director and Senior Economist
Washington Research Council

⇒ **In-class exam: Thursday, May 18th (Property; Privacy Law).**

VI. Market Regulation

May 23, 25, 30

- Discussion of markets and market regulation.
- David Griswold, J.D.; General Counsel and CCO Pacific Current Group.

⇒ **In-class exam: Thursday, June 1st (Market Regulation).**

Grading:

Each student's grade for the course will be a weighted average of exam grades. Additional details regarding each exam will be discussed in class and information will be posted on Canvas.
