

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

Spring 2019 Overall Course Schedule & Outline

**Tuesday / Thursday; 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.**  
**Classroom: Thomson Hall 119**

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

Email: [ctapia@uw.edu](mailto:ctapia@uw.edu)

Office: Savery 341

Office Hours: I am happy to meet by appointment. Please email ([ctapia@uw.edu](mailto:ctapia@uw.edu)) to coordinate.

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***Description:***

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 work with professionals in the legal field. The objective of this course is to help students identify these career paths and to work with “real-world” applications that combine economics and law. To assist students, we will discuss various topics throughout the quarter including: Contracts, Torts, Antitrust, Mergers & Acquisitions, 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.

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***Goals and Objectives:***

- 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.

### **Course Segments and Readings:**

Most readings will consist of articles or lecture notes prepared for each topic. **Additional resources and information (including lecture slides) for each segment will be posted on Canvas.** It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas and review the available materials, in addition to taking notes during lecture. Please contact me ([ctapia@uw.edu](mailto:ctapia@uw.edu)) right away if you have any trouble accessing materials.

**Class announcements with any updates will be sent through Canvas.** *It is the student's responsibility to attend class and check class announcements on Canvas to have the latest information regarding readings, exams, and scheduling.*

### **I. Introduction; Sources of Law and Legal Structure; Basic Principles**

**April 2 (Tu), 4 (Th), 9 (Tu) and 11 (Th)**

- Introduction to the course
- Sources of law and structure of U.S. legal system
- Introduction to some basic principles in law that will be discussed throughout the course

#### Speaker:

Bruce Lamka, J.D.  
Partner (retired), Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP

⇒ **Take-home Exam, posted April 12 (F)**  
Additional details and due date to be announced

### **II. Antitrust**

**April 16 (Tu), 18 (Th)**

- Concepts and issues related to antitrust law
- Sherman Act

#### Speaker:

Chris Nelson, J.D.; Assistant General Counsel, Corporate, External, & Legal Affairs;  
Microsoft Corporation

### **III. Mergers & Acquisitions**

**April 23 (Tu), 25 (Th)**

- Concepts and issues related to mergers and acquisitions

Speaker:

Greg Sivinski, J.D.; Assistant General Counsel, Corporate, External, & Legal Affairs;  
Microsoft Corporation

⇒ **In-class Exam: April 30 (Tu), including both Antitrust and M&A**

### **IV. Property**

**May 2 (Th), 7 (Tu), 9 (Th)**

- Economic analysis of property law and economic theory surrounding property rights.
- Coase Theorem and transaction costs

Speaker:

Kriss Sjoblom, Ph.D.; Research Director and Senior Economist  
Washington Research Council

⇒ **In-class Exam: May 14 (Tu)**

### **V. Torts**

**May 16 (Th), 21 (Tu), 23 (Th)**

- Purpose of tort law
- Economic concepts involved in tort law
- Liability and economic incentives

Speaker:

Christina P. Tapia, Ph.D.; Visiting Lecturer, U.W.; Economist, Northwest Economics,  
LLC.

⇒ **Take-home Exam: Posted May 24 (F)**  
Additional details and due date to be announced

## **VI. Market Regulation**

**May 28 (Tu), 30 (Th); June 4 (Tu)**

- What is a market?
- Discussion of market regulation, mechanisms and purpose

Speaker:

David Griswold, J.D.; General Counsel and CCO; Pacific Current Group

⇒ **In-class Exam: June 6 (Th)**

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### ***Grading:***

As listed above, there will be five exams, one for each course segment. *Please take note of the exam dates listed above and plan accordingly.* Additional exam details will be announced during each segment. Your grade for the overall course will be the average of your segment exam grades (there is no separate final exam). The class grading scale is available on Canvas and grades are not curved.

It is my priority to ensure that this class is a valuable experience for students. To achieve this goal, each year I seek student feedback regarding the topics included and how the material is presented. This helps me design the course and update the content for the benefit of future students. Therefore, in addition to the quarter-end evaluations, you will have the opportunity to submit a “*Graded Survey*” on Canvas with comments *at the conclusion of each segment*. A “*Graded Survey*” will be available on Canvas beginning the first day of each segment and *will be available only until* the first date of the next segment. While your responses are *anonymous*, Canvas will record whether each student submitted a survey. Students will receive one extra-credit point for each survey submitted (total of five over the quarter) and these extra-credit points will be applied to the lowest exam grade during the quarter. Note that once the window is closed, students will not be able to submit past surveys so it is important to complete each survey as it is available during the quarter.

***Additional Resources for Students:***

U.W. Economics Resources for Students: <https://econ.washington.edu/resources-students>

U.W. Career and Internship Center: <https://careers.uw.edu/>

U.W. Undergraduate Advising: <https://www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/>

U.W. Disability Resources for Students: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>

U.W. International and English Language Programs: <https://www.ielp.uw.edu/>

U.W. Health and Wellness: <http://depts.washington.edu/livewell/>

U.W. Libraries: <http://www.lib.washington.edu/>

U.W. Undergraduate Merit Scholarships, Fellowships & Awards:  
<http://expd.uw.edu/scholarships/>

U.W. Student Coaching and Care: <http://depts.washington.edu/livewell/student-care/>

U.W. Student Legal Services: <http://depts.washington.edu/slsuw/>