



Department of Economics Course Outline

Course:	Economics 345 [Economic Analysis of Law I]	Term:	Winter 2010
Time:	TR 14:00-15:15	Section:	01
Instructor:	Dr. C. J. Bruce	Place:	ST 139 (subject to change)
Office:	SS 414	Telephone:	220-4093
Office Hours:	TR 15:30 – 17:00	E-mail:	cjbruce@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

None - lecture notes are available as a Word file on the course home page. Printed copies will be made available if there is sufficient demand.

Book(s) on Reserve:

Cooter, Robert and Thomas Ulen, *Law and Economics*, latest edition, Scott, Foresman & Co.
Landes, William and Richard Posner, *The Economic Structure of Tort Law*, Harvard U.P., latest edition.

Linden, Allen, *Canadian Tort Law*, Butterworths, latest edition.

Polinsky, A. M., *An Introduction to Law and Economics*, Little, Brown, Boston, latest edition.

Posner, Richard A. *Economic Analysis of Law*, Little, Brown, Boston, latest edition.

Course Outline:

Although economists have been interested in the law for a long time - for example, laws concerning tariffs, minimum wages, trade unions, banks, monopolies, and income taxes - what has come to be known as the "Economics of Law" is primarily the study of common law (laws made by the courts through the operation of precedent) and criminal law.

This course will be divided into four sections. In the first, we will (briefly) investigate a number of economic theories that underlie the economic analysis of law. Then we will look at three types of common law rules - the laws of contract, tort, and property.

As those of you who are not going on to become lawyers will not have much opportunity to use most of the theory taught in this course, the main goal of the course will be to provide you with experience applying rigorous logic to topics about which most of us are accustomed to thinking in emotional terms.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

There will be two take-home assignments worth 20 percent each (due February 25 and March 25), an essay worth 35 percent (due April 8), and a final exam worth 25 percent. The assignments and essay may involve group work (see below). To calculate your final letter grade I will sum your marks on your assignments, essay, and exam to get a mark out of 100.

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, and then converted to letter grades. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	90 - 100	B	73.5 - 76.4	C-	60 - 63.4
A	83 - 89.9	B-	70 - 73.4	D	56.5 - 59.9
A-	80 - 82.9	C+	66.5 - 69.9	D	50 - 56.4
B+	76.5 - 79.9	C	63.5 - 66.4	F	0 - 49.9

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

Non-programmable calculators will be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting 2 hours and held in a classroom. Essays will be returned to students at the final exam.

Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions.

Group Work:

Assignments and essays may be done individually or as a member of a two-person group. Each group will submit only one set of answers per assignment. Group composition does not need to remain fixed. If you wish, you can form new groups for each project.

If you feel that you did an unfair proportion of your group's work, you may indicate that to me at the time you hand in the assignment and I will adjust the group members' relative marks accordingly. (For example, if I find that one member did 20 percent more work than the other, I will give first member 1.10 times the group mark and the second 0.90 times the group mark.)

Students' Union Vice President Academic:

Meg Martin

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Notes:

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor *within fifteen days* of the work being returned to the class.
- Make-up examinations and deferred examinations will not be given *except in cases of extreme personal emergencies*. Also, examinations will not be given *before* the indicated dates.
- **Blackboard:** This course will make use of Blackboard - students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login> . Please note that Blackboard features a class e-mail list that I will use. It is your responsibility to ensure that Blackboard uses the e-mail address of your choice; **and that the e-mail address recorded by the Registrar is correct.**
- It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333
Emergency Assembly Point – SS Food Court

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