



**ECON 308 A01 202301**

**Course Title: Economics and the Law**  
**CRN 21067**

**Preliminary course outline** (will be updated with respect to topics and delivery method as the term progresses)

**Instructor Name: Dr. L. Welling**

**E-Mail:** [lwelling@uvic.ca](mailto:lwelling@uvic.ca)

**Office: BEC 346**

**Classroom:** Cornett B112

**Times: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 2:30 – 3:20 pm**

**Office Hours:** times TBA. By appointment is always an option.

### **Course Content**

The calendar entry for *Economics and the Law* says this course covers the “(a)pplication of economic principles and methodology, including transactions costs and the Coase Theorem, to different areas of law. Areas include the law of property, torts and contracts, criminal, family, and corporate law.”

<https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/courses/B1wiWFTQV>

The first part of the course is a short review and extension of some of the concepts from your introductory microeconomics course (ECON 103 at UVic); this provides the basic tools for our analysis. The areas of law to be addressed in this term are property, torts and contracts, criminal and corporate law. We will use both theory and case studies in each of the areas above.

### **Textbook (required)**

Cooter, R. and T. Ulen (2016), *Law & Economics* 6th edition

This book is available for free download (by chapter) at <https://lawcat.berkeley.edu/record/1127400?ln=en>

The text focuses on US law; we will use additional sources for information on the Canadian legal system and cases. These sources will include

Canada’s System of Justice homepage: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cs-j-sjc/index.html>

Supreme Court of Canada homepage: <https://www.scc-csc.ca/home-accueil/index-eng.aspx>

Canadian Legal Information Institute: <https://www.canlii.org/en/>

See <https://blog.canlii.org/2021/06/29/canlii-pro-tip-a-guide-to-using-search-filters-on-canlii/> for a guide for searching this database.

**Course Schedule** (tentative: needs to be adjusted for reading break)

Topic	Chapter in text	Week	Due Dates and Exam Information
Introduction	1	1	<i>Dates may be adjusted as course proceeds.</i>
Economics background and key concepts	2: I-VII, IX 3: I, III	1-2	Assignment 1 due <b>by</b> noon on Monday January 23.
Economics and property law <a href="#">Recent changes in copyright</a>	4: I, IV-V 5: I:A-B, III, IV: B	3-5	Case study on property law due by Feb 17 11:59 pm Midterm: Feb 15, in class
Family day (UVic closed)			Feb 21
Reading break (no classes)			Feb 22 – 25
Economics and contracts + torts	6: I, II: A-F 8: I-III 10: I-IV	6-9	Case study on contracts or torts
Economics and crime	12: I, II: A-D	10-11	Case study on crime
Economics and corporate law (time permitting) <a href="#">Rogers and Shaw Jan 2023</a>		12	
Summary of course		13	Classes end on April 6

**Grading**

The final grade is determined as follows:

Participation:	10 %
Assignments:	29 %
Midterm Exam*:	25 % (or 20%)
Final Exam*:	36 % (or 41%)

**\*Note:** the midterm and the final are together worth 61% of your mark. If your percentage grade on the final is higher than your percentage grade on the midterm, your final will be worth 41% and the midterm worth 25%.

**Participation:** based on contributions to in class and online discussions; more information will be available on Brightspace.

**Assignments:** there will be 4 assignments: 3 case studies worth 8 marks each and 1 worth 5 marks, reviewing economics concepts. Assignments can be submitted through Brightspace or in hard copy.

**Midterm:** The midterm exam will be on Wednesday February 15, in class.

**Final exam:** Timing is set by the registrar's office

**Essential components:**

You must complete the first assignment and at least 2 of the case studies to write the final exam.

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.

Grading Scale:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F or N
90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	50-59	0-49

Students should review the University's more detailed [undergraduate grading policy](#).

**Course Policies**

This course adheres to the [Undergraduate Course Policies](#) of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:

- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Sexualized violence prevention and response
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance.

**Examinations**

Attendance at all scheduled examinations is mandatory. Consideration for missed examinations will be given only on the basis of documented illness, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In the event of a missed final examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the [University Calendar](#).

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

**Waitlist Policies**

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with

coursework in the event they are admitted.

- Registered students who do not show up in the first seven calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course, and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.
- Any students who are still waitlisted in a course **after** the course add deadline should stop attending/completing coursework. Students are responsible for being aware of this deadline and will not be eligible for credit in the course despite continuing to complete coursework.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. A student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

Review <https://www.uvic.ca/library/help/citation/plagiarism/index.php> for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

<https://www.uvic.ca/services/advising/advice-support/academic-units/student-code-of-conduct/index.php>

#### **University Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness**

The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

See [General University Policies](#)

### **Accessibility & Health Resources**

#### **Centre for Accessible Learning**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

[Health Services](#) - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

[Counselling Services](#) - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

[Elders' Voices](#) - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

### **Brightspace**

- Brightspace is used extensively for this course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system.
- The lecture slides will be posted in Brightspace. Please note that the lecture slides online are primarily in point form and provide only outlines of the actual lectures.
- All announcements will be posted in Brightspace. Students are advised to check it frequently.
- I will post assignments on Brightspace and you will submit your answers there.

**Course Experience Survey (CES)**

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future.

When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to the [CES log-in](#). You will use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be completed on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

- What strengths did your **instructor** demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
- Please provide specific suggestions as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.
- Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

### Learning Outcomes

By completing the course students can expect to have learned how to:

- Explain the ways economists model and measure property, torts, contracts and crime;
- Apply basic economic concepts such as opportunity cost, information, incentives, risk, supply, demand, returns to scale, and market power to policy issues in property, tort and crime;
- Explain the influence of economic reasoning on the law, and of legal reasoning on the work of economists;
- Find and interpret published reasons for judicial decisions;

Skills you will practice:

- Using simple economic models to examine policy issues;
- Summarizing non-technical research papers.
- Identifying errors in reasoning contained in policy proposals or the assessment of causal relationships.

### E-mail correspondence

Emails should be limited to critical matters such as inability to attend class or an exam, prolonged illness or to arrange an appointment. **You must include ECON 308 in the subject line, even if you are replying to an email generated by Brightspace.** Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear.... or Hello ....), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your **fullname and V#**. Text message lingo should not be used.

### Electronic devices

In order to minimize distractions for me and the other students, please turn off or silence your phone during class. If this is a serious inconvenience for you– family or business needs, for example – please let me know.

### Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [www.uvic.ca/svp](http://www.uvic.ca/svp). If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity

### Important Dates: SecondTerm, 202301

Classes start: Monday January 9

(Chinese New Year: Sunday January 22)

Reading break: Tuesday February 21 – Friday February 24

(Daylight Savings Time begins: Sunday, March 12)

(Ramadan begins: Wednesday March 22)

Last class: Thursday April 6

Exams begin: Tuesday April 11

### Statutory holidays (University closed)

Family Day: Monday February 20

Easter is early this year (the first full moon after the Spring Equinox is April 6); university is closed April 7 and 10.

### Important resources

UVic Learn Anywhere <https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/LearnAnywhere/>