ECON 308 A01
Course Title: Economics and the Law
CRN 11163

Winter session: 2023 09– Term one

UVic Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Instructor Name: Dr Linda Welling
E-Mail: lwelling@uvic.ca
Office Hours: TBA

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/B1wlWFTQV

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)
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

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.

Grading
Participation: 10%
Assignment(s): 30 %
Midterm Exam(s): 25% (or 20%) *
Final Exam: 35% (or 40%) *
*Note: the midterm and the final are together worth 60% of your mark. If your percentage grade on the final is higher than your percentage grade on the midterm, your final will be worth 40% and the midterm worth 20%.

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

**Assignments:** there will be 4 assignments: Assignment 1 is a review of basic economic concepts and is worth 6 marks. The remaining 3 assignments are case studies, worth 8 marks each. Assignments can be submitted through Brightspace or in hard copy.

You must complete at least 2 of the case summaries to write the final exam and you must pass the final exam to pass the course. Failure to PASS THE FINAL will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage on the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.

**Midterm:** The midterm exam is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, in class.

**Final exam:** The final exam will be 2 hours long and will cover the entire course. It will be scheduled by the university.

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F or N</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students should review the University’s more detailed [summary of grading](#).

**E-mail correspondence**

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and should include the course name and number in the subject line. 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…), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your [full name and V#](#). Text message lingo should not be used.

**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
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 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.

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 What is Plagiarism for the definition of plagiarism. The University reserves the right to use a plagiarism software to detect violations of academic integrity (including unauthorized use of ChatGPT and other Artificial Intelligence).

Student Code of Conduct
The Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences Faculties have adopted this Student code of conduct. Please review.

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
The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic’s International Centre for Students is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the UVic Global Community Initiative, including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program. For academic advising-related questions, students in the Economics Department are also encouraged to meet with the Economics Undergraduate Advisor (Prof. Kenneth Stewart, ecadvice@uvic.ca) as well as an academic advisor in the Academic Advising Centre early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the Centre for Academic Communication and the Math and Stats Assistance Centre. The International Student Liason in the Economics Department is Prof. Paul Schure who can help you connect with other international and domestic students in the Department. His email address is schure@uvic.ca. Please, reach out if you are interested.

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.

Support Connect - a 24/7 mental health support service for students
• Toll-free (calls from North America): 1-844-773-1427
• International collect calls: 1-250-999-7621

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 the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system.
- The lecture notes will be posted in Brightspace. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures.
- All announcements will be posted in Brightspace. Students are advised to check it frequently.

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.

Mandatory Course Components:
Students must complete at least 2 of the 3 case study assignments to write the final exam and must pass the final exam to pass the course.

Course Schedule (to be updated as course proceeds)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter in text</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Due Dates and Exam Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dates may be adjusted as course proceeds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics background and key concepts</td>
<td>2: I-VII, IX 3: I, III</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Assignment 1 due by noon on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics and property law</td>
<td>4: I, IV-V 5: I-A-B, III, IV: B</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Case study on property law due by October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent changes in copyright</td>
<td>6: I, II: A-F 8: I-III 10: I-IV</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>Midterm: October 18, in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics and contracts + torts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Case study on contracts or torts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economics and crime I 12: I, II: A-D 10-11 Case study on crime
Reading break
Economics and crime II
Economics and corporate law (time permitting) Rogers and Shaw Jan 2023 12
Summary of course 13 Last class: December 1

Learning Outcomes
By successfully 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.

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 Dr Welling” or “Hello Dr Welling”), include full sentences and conclude with a signature that includes your full name 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. 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 and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact svpcoordinator@uvic.ca.