Law and Economics applies the methods of neoclassical economics to the study of law. The focus is on efficiency, incentives, and information, and how these affect the objectives, structures, limits, and content of laws. The class introduces the topic with a brief examination of “property,” its function and relationship to the law. Most of the course examines the economic analysis of torts and crime. Some cases and current issues will be used to apply the theoretical tools, models and concepts developed. As time permits, we will discuss some related issues in conflict economics.

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

- Explain various ways economists measure and model crime and tort;
- Apply basic economic concepts such as opportunity cost, information, incentives, risk, supply, demand, returns to scale, and market power to policy issues in tort and crime;
- Formulate and solve simple models of crime and tort;
- Explain the influence of economic reasoning on the law, and of legal reasoning on the work of economists;
- Write a clear, concise, briefing note demonstrating economic logic applied to the law;
- Identify errors in reasoning of policy proposals or the assessment of causal relationships.

**Skills you will get practice in:**

- Drafting a superior briefing note;
- Using simple economic models to examine policy issues;
- Summarizing non-technical research papers.
Topics:
1. Brief review of key economic concepts
2. Property
3. Torts
4. Crime
5. Other topics

Additional information about the syllabus, additions and amendments will be posted on the CourseSpaces page. Please consult that page frequently.


A pdf of this text or its individual chapters can be downloaded at no charge from the Berkeley Law website.

Evaluation:

- Participation: 10%
- Hand-in homework: 10%, 10%, 15%
- In class quizzes: 7%, 9%, 9%
- December final exam: 30%

The participation grade is based on your preparation for and engagement with in-class discussions and exercises. Some brief written summaries prepared in class may be required.

Course Readings:

The course readings comprise selections from the textbook, research papers and online material. Readings will be posted in advance on the CourseSpaces page. Some readings will be designated “required” and others “supplementary”. Required readings are subject to evaluation on the term quizzes and final exam. These readings are also useful for participation in-class discussions and writing exercises. Supplementary readings provide deeper context and directions for further study.
**Course Policies**

**The Proper Use of Email**
Email is satisfactory for sending simple information, so use it for this. To increase the chance that I read your mail, and to offer the faintest hope that I will reply, follow these simple rules: 1. use meaningful subject lines, such as the course name, and a word or two summarizing why you are writing; 2. include your name and your student number in the body of the message; 3. be succinct; and 4. be polite. I will not reply with information on this outline or the course website, so look in those places before you write. I will not provide detailed answers to questions by email: ask me those in class, or during office hours. **Please do send questions you would like me to discuss in class** *(e.g. Subject: Econ 311B, question for tomorrow’s class).*

**Missed work**
I recognize that students are occasionally prevented by reasons beyond their control from writing an exam or submitting an assignment exactly on time. In such cases, concessions can sometimes be made. Concessions must not significantly alter the assessment of overall performance in the course. Please let me know as soon as possible if you need an academic concession, and be sure to support your request with appropriate documentation. Family holidays and celebrations do not automatically constitute a valid reason for missed work.

**Standard Department of Economics Policies:**
[https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/home/course%20policies/index.php](https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/home/course%20policies/index.php)

**Policy on Inclusivity and Diversity**
The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

**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. Students must not engage in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the Policy on Academic Integrity ([https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html](https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html)) in the University Calendar. Such behavior is subject to penalty by the University.

**Attendance**
Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled ([https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/attendance.html](https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/attendance.html)). Students who do not attend classes **must not assume** that they have been dropped from a course by a department or an instructor. Courses that are not formally dropped will be given a failing grade, students may be required to withdraw, and will be required to pay the tuition fee for the course.
An instructor may refuse a student admission to a lecture or laboratory because of lateness, misconduct, inattention or failure to meet the responsibilities of the course. Students who neglect their academic work, including assignments, may be refused permission to write the final examination in a course. Instructors must inform students at the beginning of term, in writing, of the minimum attendance required at lectures and in laboratories in order to qualify to write examinations. Students who are absent because of illness, an accident or family affliction should report to their instructors upon their return to classes.

Grading

Students who have completed the following elements will be considered to have completed the course:
- two or more home work assignments
- two or more in-class quizzes
- the final exam

Failure to complete one or more of these elements will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0. Attendance at all classes is expected. Students who miss more than 3 classes may be denied permission to write the final exam. Please ensure that your schedule permits you to attend all classes and contact me immediately if you are unable to attend a class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passing Grades</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+  A A-</td>
<td>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+ B B-</td>
<td>Very good, good and solid performance. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+ C</td>
<td>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Failing Grades</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of the term.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Course letter grade** - numerical score (%) equivalencies

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