



## Department of Economics Course Outline

<b>Course:</b>	Economics 345 [Economic Analysis of Law I]	<b>Term:</b>	Winter 2012
<b>Time:</b>	TR 14:00-15:15	<b>Section:</b>	01
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. C. J. Bruce	<b>Place:</b>	ICT 116 (subject to change)
<b>Office:</b>	SS 414	<b>Telephone:</b>	220-4093
<b>Office Hours:</b>	MW 15:30 – 17:00	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:cjbruce@ucalgary.ca">cjbruce@ucalgary.ca</a>

### 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 16 and March 22), an essay worth 35 percent (due April 13), 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:

Ola Mohajer

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Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.):

[www.ucalgary.ca/sue](http://www.ucalgary.ca/sue)

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career partnerships with the Career Centre through hosting industry nights and information sessions, recognizing achievements in teaching, and organizing social events for members. Join now by contacting [sue@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sue@ucalgary.ca).

*Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources*

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

**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.** (You can check your address on your Student Center.)

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

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