



Department of Economics Course Outline

Course:	Economics 345 [Economic Analysis of Law I]	Term:	Fall 2008
Time:	MWF 09:00 – 09:50	Section:	01
Instructor:	Dr. C. J. Bruce	Place:	ST 139 (subject to change)
Office:	SS 414	Telephone:	220-4093
Office Hours:	MW 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 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 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 October 20 and November 14), an essay worth 35 percent (due November 28), and a final exam worth 25 percent. The assignments and essay will 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

If, for some reason, the distribution of grades determined using the aforementioned conversion chart appears to be abnormal the instructor reserves the right to change the grade conversion chart if the instructor, *at the instructor's discretion*, feels it is necessary to more fairly represent student achievement.

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:

All take home assignments and essays will be done as “group” projects (one or two students per 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.

When you hand in an assignment, I will ask each member of the group to assess the relative contributions of the other group members. These assessments (see attached example) will be used to determine the individual's mark relative to the group mark.

Students' Union Vice President Academic:

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

www.ucalgary.ca/sue/

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 UofC Portal, IT Tools).
- 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

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Economics 345 (01) – Fall 2008

PEER EVALUATION OF GROUP MEMBERS

PURPOSE: To assist the professor in determining the “team component” of each individual’s grade as fairly as possible.

ASSUMPTION When a member has, in total, contributed to the overall work of the team about the same as the average team member he/she should receive 100% of the “overall team grade” for the team component of the course.

When a member has contributed more than average to the work of the team (e.g. analytical, organizational, written, investigative, verbal) he/she should receive more than 100% of the team grade (e.g. 110%, 120%, etc.).

Similarly, when a member has contributed less than average, he/she should receive less than 100% of the team grade (e.g. 90%, 80%, etc.)

It is a requirement that the overall percentage for the group average 100%.

INSTRUCTIONS: List below the members of your team and indicate what percentage of the team grade you would recommend for yourself and for each other member.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
1. (YOURSELF) _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

EXPLANATION/COMMENTS: (Continue on the back, if necessary)

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM SHOWING OR DISCUSSING YOUR EVALUATIONS WITH ANYONE.