

Course Syllabus
ECO 320H1F LEC0101
AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF LAW
Department of Economics
University of Toronto
Fall - Winter, 2024

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Robert Barber

Email: robert.barber@utoronto.ca

Office: 150 St. George Street, GE 150

COURSE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Nasir Hossein

Azra Park

Mei An Chen

The TA's will not have regularly scheduled office hours.

COURSE WEBSITE

<https://q.utoronto.ca>.

EVALUATION

Midterm Test - Wednesday, September 25, 2024	20%
Course Assignment - Wednesday, November 6, 2024	30%
Final Exam - December, 2024	50%

Please Turn to Page 2

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be held in person each Tuesday, 3PM to 6PM, Max Gluskin Building (Dept. of Economics), 150 St. George St., starting Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

TIME ZONE

All lecture times, tutorial times, test and exam times, deadlines, etc. are stated in local Toronto time. Please note that Toronto adheres to Eastern Daylight Time. The University does not accept confusion about deadlines as an excuse for lateness or missed tests/work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please make it a habit of checking the Course Quercus site and the Economics Department website for current announcements regarding courses (i.e. class cancellations).

EMAILS

If you email us, you must use your university email address and include the course code in the subject line. We will do our best to answer your questions within 48 hours. Please do not use the Quercus Inbox Application to communicate with us. We do not answer these.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course involves the practical application of microeconomic theory to common legal problems: torts, contracts, property and crime, and the limitations of economic analysis. No previous familiarity with the law is assumed. (This is an economic analysis of legal issues, not a course in law).

PREREQUISITES

[ECO200Y1/ECO204Y1/ECO206Y1](#)

Prerequisites are strictly checked and enforced and must be completed before taking a course. By taking this course you acknowledge that you will be removed from the course at any time if you do not meet all requirements set by the Department of Economics.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Text:

Cooter and Ulen, Law & Economics, 6th ed., Addison-Wesley (Pearson), Toronto, Canada, 2011, ISBN: 978-0-13-25-4065, available at the Berkeley Law Scholarship Repository:

http://www.econ.jku.at/t3/staff/winterebmer/teaching/law_economics/ss19/6th_edition.pdf

LECTURES and TUTORIALS

This term all lectures and tutorials will be in person. The lectures and tutorials will not be recorded. The lectures in this section will be held Wednesday (except holidays) from 1:10 PM to 3PM, at Sidney Smith, 100 St George St., Room 2118.

The tutorials in this section will be held Tuesdays (except holidays) from 11:10 AM to 1PM, at Sidney Smith, 100 St George St., Room 2102. Tutorial questions will be posted on the course Quercus website prior to the tutorials. Answers and discussions will be provided at the tutorials.

At the lectures and tutorials, the students will be able to maximize their interaction with the course instructor or TA who would be able to answer questions and provide in class demonstrations.

Students will be responsible for all the material presented in the lectures and tutorials. The lecture and tutorial material, slides and the assigned readings from the Text are eligible for inclusion in the term test and final exam.

MIDTERM TEST

There will be a one (1) hour fifty (50) minute in person midterm test based on the first three (3) lectures and tutorials on Wednesday, September 25, 2024. The Test will run from 1:10PM to 3PM in the class room at Sidney Smith, 100 St George St., Room 2118. This test will be worth 20% of the final mark.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT

The Course Assignment instructions will be available, Wednesday, September 18, 2024, on Quercus and due Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Students will prepare an assignment of 6 pages on a course topic. The topic will be the economic analysis of a law, rule, legal problem or legal case the student chooses and will be worth 30% of the final mark. Use of generative AI tools are not permitted for the final submitted copy of the Assignment.

FINAL EXAM

The exam will be administered during the Examination period in December. The Faculty of Arts and Science will set the exact date and time later in the term. The Final Exam will be worth 50% of the final mark.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

INTRODUCTION:

Lecture 1

Introduction – Chapter 1

Microeconomic Background – Chapter 2

Law and Legal Institutions – Chapter 3

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

PROPERTY LAW - 1:

Lecture 2

Economics of Property – Chapter 4

**Coase, Ronald, "The Problem of Social Cost", (1960) 3 J. of Law and Economics 1 – 44*

**Simpson, "COASE v. PIGOU REEXAMINED", (1996) 25 J. Legal Stud. 53*

**Case: K.V.P v. McKie (Ontario) –*

**McKie v. KVP - Commentary by Benidickdson, Jamie*

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

PROPERTY LAW - 2:

Lecture 3

Economics of Property Law - Chapter 5

D.N. Dewees, M. Halewood, "The Efficiency of the Common Law: Sulphur Dioxide Emissions in Sudbury", U. of Toronto Law J. 42, 1992, pp. 1-21.

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Midterm Test – Lectures 1 to 3 – In Person – Classroom – 1:10PM to 3PM

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

CONTRACT LAW - 1

Lecture 4

Economics of Contracts - Chapter 8

**Case: Hamer v. Sidway (1891)*

**Case: Hadley v Baxendale (1854)*

**Case: McKnight v. Morrison - (2019)*

Please Turn to Page 6

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

CONTRACT LAW - 2

Lecture 5

Economics of Contracts - Chapter 9.

***Case: Laidlaw v. Organ**

***Case: Cotton v. Monahan - O.S.C.J. (2010);
O.C.A. (2011) – Buyer Beware**

***Case: Rogers v. RCI (Nov. 5, 2021)**

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

TORT LAW - 1

Lecture 6

Economics of Tort Law – Chapter 6

***Case: Cowles v Balzac (2006)**

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

TORT LAW - 2

Lecture 7

Topics in the Economics of Tort – Chapter 7

****Winter, Ralph, “Liability Insurance, Joint
Tortfeasors and Limited Wealth”, 26, 1,
(2006) International Review of Law and
Economics 1.***

****Case: Rankin v J.J. (2018)***

Monday, October 28, 2024 to Friday, November 1, 2024

Fall Reading Week

Please Turn to Page 7

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Assignment Due – Wednesday, November 6, 2024

CRIMINAL LAW - 1:

Lecture 8

Crime and Punishment – Chapter 12

***Becker, “Crime and Punishment: An Economic Approach” (1968) 76 Journal of Political Economy, 169 - 217**

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

CRIMINAL LAW - 2:

Chapter 13

****Polinsky, A. Mitchell and Steven Shavell, 2000, “The Economic Theory of Public Enforcement of Law” J. Econ. Literature 38:1, March, 45-76.***

***Case: The Queen v. Belakziz - Plea Bargains (A.C.A – 2018)**

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

LEGAL PROCESS:

Chapter 10

Economics of the Legal Process

Ashenfelter, Bloom and Dahl, "Lawyers As Agents of the Devil", Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, Volume 10, Issue 3, 399–423, September 2013.

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Make Up Test - 1:10PM to 3:00PM

Please Turn to Page 8

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 - Thursday, December 5, 2024

Study Break

Friday, December 6, 2024 - Thursday, December 19, 2024

Final Exam Period

TIME EXTENSION:

If you require an extension of time, please request this at least 5 business days in advance. Asking for an extension the day before, or the day of, is not a sufficient amount of time.

Computer viruses, crashed hard drives, broken printers, lost or corrupted files, incompatible file formats, faulty internet, battery problems, and similar mishaps are common issues when using technology, and are not acceptable grounds for a deadline extension.

It is every student's responsibility to ensure that their online submission is submitted successfully by the due date. Accommodations will not be made for unsuccessful submissions due to, but not limited to, i) the system timing out, ii) submitting the incorrect document(s), iii) poor internet connection / no internet connection etc.

MISSED TERM WORK

If you miss an academic obligation during the term (i.e., assessment, quiz or paper) because of circumstances beyond your control (e.g., illness or an accident), you can request accommodation. The following rules apply:

Once per term, you may use the ACORN Absence Declaration Tool to record an absence. The declaration period must include the day of declaration and may include past and/or future dates, for a total of up to seven consecutive days. You will receive accommodation for academic obligations during this time period without needing to present supporting documentation. To receive this accommodation, send a confirmation of your ACORN Absence Declaration to robert.barber@utoronto.ca within one week of the missed test / due date.

Please Turn to Page 9

If your absence is ineligible for the ACORN Absence Declaration Tool, you must complete the following steps within one week of the missed test / due date.

- send supporting documentation to robert.barber@utoronto.ca. For absences related to illness/injury, the supporting documentation consists of the [Verification of Student Illness or Injury form](#), completed by a doctor within one day of the missed test / due date. For absences due to other reasons beyond your control, use the [Verification of Extenuating Circumstances form](#)

If no request for academic accommodation is received, or if the request is deemed unacceptable, you will receive a grade of zero for the item you missed. If the request is granted – that is, your reason for missing the item is considered acceptable – then you can do the Make Up Test. The Make-Up Test will be administered from **1:10 PM - 3PM, Wednesday, November 27, 2024**. Only one make-up test will be scheduled for this course. This test will cover all the lectures, required readings and slides for the course period up to and including Lecture 3.

Students cannot petition to re-write a quiz/test once it has begun. If you are feeling ill, please do not start the test, seek medical attention immediately, and the policy on Missed Term Work will apply.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONAL REASONS

There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to non-medical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me. It is also a very good idea to speak with an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can support you in requesting extensions or accommodations, and importantly, connect you with other resources on campus for help with your situation.

REGRADE REQUEST

A student who believes that their written term work has been unfairly marked may ask the instructor for re-evaluation. Students have up to one week from the date of return of an item of term work to inquire about the mark. Such re-marking may involve the entire piece of work and may raise or lower the mark.

Please Turn to Page 10

Any appeal of the mark beyond the instructor in the course may only be made for term work worth at least 20% of the course mark. Such appeals must be made in writing to the department within one month after the work was returned, explaining in detail why the student believes that the mark is inappropriate. The appeal must summarize all previous communications between the student and previous markers of the work. The student must submit the original marked piece of work.

If the department believes that re-marking is justified, the department will select an independent reader. The student must agree in writing to be bound by the results of the re-reading process or abandon the appeal.

Where possible, the independent reader should be given a clean, anonymous determine a mark for the work. The marking of the work should be considered within the context of the course of instruction for which it was submitted. If the new mark differs substantially from the original mark, the department will determine a final mark taking into account both available marks.

PRIVACY AND USE OF COURSE MATERIAL

Course materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other source depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND PROBLEMS

In order to take this course, you will need reliable and regular access to a laptop/desktop; a cell phone is NOT sufficient. You will also need reliable and regular access to high-speed internet. See the University's [Recommended Technology Requirements for Remote/Online Learning](#).

You must have access to a laptop or desktop computer with a strong, stable internet connection. A phone cannot be an acceptable substitute as some required components may not be accessible on smartphones. A camera and mic are required for online contact activities such as office hours. High speed broadband access (LAN, Cable or DSL) is highly recommended

Please Turn to Page 11

This course requires the use of computers, and of course, sometimes things can go wrong when using them. You are responsible for ensuring that you maintain regular backup copies of your files, use antivirus software (if using your own computer), and schedule enough time when completing an assignment to allow for delays due to technical difficulties. Computer viruses, crashed hard drives, broken printers, lost or corrupted files, incompatible file formats, faulty internet, and similar mishaps are common issues when using technology and cannot be an acceptable ground for a deadline extension.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism—representing someone else’s work as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program—is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Speak to me for advice on anything that you find unclear. To learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at www.writing.utoronto.ca/.

Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University’s policy and expectations. For more information, please see <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai> and <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>

Plagiarism Detection Tool

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University’s plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool’s reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching

Opting Out

If you have an objection to the use of the plagiarism detection tool for the submission of your work, please make an appointment by email to speak personally with the Course Instructor to discuss alternative arrangements before Monday, November 4, 2024.

Alternative submissions could include:

- requiring annotated bibliographies from you;
- requiring you submit all rough work with your paper;
- requiring that you include the call numbers or web site addresses of all sources cited in your paper.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Students may use artificial intelligence tools for creating an outline for an assignment, but the final submitted assignment must be original work produced by the individual student alone.

Students may not use artificial intelligence tools for the term test, quizzes or the final exam. However, these tools may be useful when gathering information from across sources and assimilating it for understanding.

STUDENT CONDUCT

It is your responsibility as a student at the University of Toronto to familiarize yourself with, and adhere to, [The Code of Student Conduct](#), which is a University policy that sets out expectations for student behavior, and prescribes processes for dealing with prohibited behaviour.

The [Student's Companion to the Student Code of Conduct](#) is a set of frequently asked questions and the responses about the Code of Student Conduct. It aims to simplify and clarify Code usage for the University's community members.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students, faculty and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing assignments, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts.

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the

University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

LEARNING DISABILITY AND ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) (accessibility.utoronto.ca) at the beginning of the academic year. Without registration, you will not be able to

Please Turn to Page 14

verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your medical situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS. For accessibility services/accommodation, please see: <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of backgrounds, cultural traditions, and spiritual beliefs. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays.

Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (like a test, or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

The following are some important links to help you with academic and/or technical service and support

- General student services and resources at [Student Life](#)
- Full library service through [University of Toronto Libraries](#)
- Resources on conducting online research through [University Libraries Research](#)
- Resources on academic support from the [Academic Success Centre](#)
- Learner support at the [Writing Centre](#)
- Information about [Accessibility Services](#)
- Information for [Technical Support/Blackboard Support](#)