

Course Syllabus
ECO 320H1 F LEC0101, LEC0201
ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF LAW, Part 1
Department of Economics
University of Toronto
Fall, 2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Robert Barber

Email: robert.barber@utoronto.ca

Office: GE 150

Office Hours: In Person - Fridays, 2PM to 5PM

COURSE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Justina Cheng, Yulong Peng, and Jeffrey You are the Teaching Assistants.

They will not have regularly scheduled office hours or be available by email.

COURSE WEBSITE

This Course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. New information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>. **SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE:** Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus

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MARKING SCHEME

Term Test – LEC0101- Wednesday, September 24, 2025 – 1:10PM to 3PM	20%
– LEC0201- Thursday, September 25, 2025 – 1:10PM to 3PM	20%
Assignment - Due: On-Line – Monday, November 10, 2025	30%
Final Exam – December, 2025	50%

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be held each Friday, 2PM to 5PM, in GE 150, Gluskin House, 1st Floor (Dept. of Economics), 150 St. George St. The first office hours will be Friday, September 12, 2025.

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.

LECTURES AND TUTORIALS

Lectures for LEC0101 will be held in person in AH 400 each Wednesday, 1:10PM to 3PM. Lectures for LEC0201 will be held in person in AH 100 each Thursday, 1:10PM to 3PM.

Tutorials for LEC0101 will be held in person in VC 215 each Tuesday, 11:10AM to 1PM. Tutorials for LEC0201 will be held in person in SS 2135 each Tuesday, 11:10AM to 1PM.

The lectures and tutorials will not be recorded. Students will be responsible for all the material presented in the lectures and tutorials including required readings. Students should be advised that much of the material covered will be additional to the required readings and the power point slides. This is eligible for inclusion in the term test and exam.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT

The Assignment is due on-line on Monday, November 10, 2025 on Quercus. Instructions for the Assignment will be posted during the first week of classes. 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 sufficient notice.

There will be a late penalty of 1% per day after the due date.

USE OF AI IN THE ASSIGNMENT

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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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/>

TERM TEST

The Term Test will be administered in person in the classroom from 1:10PM to 3PM, Wednesday, September 24, 2025 for LEC 0101 and Thursday, September 25, 2025 for LEC 0201.

FINAL EXAM

The exam will be administered during the December examination period. The University of Toronto Mississauga will set the exact date and time later in the term. The Final Exam will be worth 50% of the final mark.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Reading

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

Recommended Reading – Articles and cases marked *

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week of Monday, September 1, 2025 to Friday, September 5, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

Lecture 1

Introduction – Chapter 1

Microeconomic Background – Chapter 2

Law and Legal Institutions – Chapter 3

Week of Monday, September 8, 2025 to Friday, September 12, 2025

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)**

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Week of Monday, September 15, 2025 to Friday, September 19, 2025

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.

Week of Monday, September 22, 2025 to Friday, September 26, 2025

Midterm Test – Lectures 1 to 3 – In Person

Classroom – 1:10PM to 3:00PM

Week of Monday, September 29, 2025 to Friday, October 2, 2025

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)**

Week of Monday, October 5, 2025 to Friday, October 9, 2025

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)**

Week of Tuesday, October 13, 2025 to Friday, October 16, 2025

TORT LAW - 1

Lecture 6

Economics of Tort Law – Chapter 6

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

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Week of Monday, October 20, 2025 to Friday, October 24, 2025

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)*

Week of Monday, October 27, 2025 to Friday, October 31, 2025

Reading Week

Week of Monday, November 3, 2025 to Friday, November 7, 2025

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*

Week of Monday, November 10, 2025 to Friday, November 14, 2025

Course Assignment Due – Monday, November 10, 2025

CRIMINAL LAW - 2:

Lecture 9

Crime and Punishment - Chapter 13

**Case: The Queen v. Belakziz*

Week of Monday, November 17, 2025 to Friday, November 21, 2025

PROCEDURE - 1:

Chapter 10

Economics of the Legal Process

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Week of Monday, November 17, 2025 to Friday, November 21, 2025

PROCEDURE - 2:

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.

Week of Monday, November 24, 2025 to Friday, November 28, 2025

Make Up Test – Lectures 1 to 3 – In Person

Classroom – 1:10PM to 3:00PM

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 - Thursday, December 4, 2025

Study Break

Thursday, December 5, 2025 – Monday, December 23, 2025

Final Exam Period

POLICIES & STATEMENTS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters \(https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019\)](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources. For example, 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 <http://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 [A&S Student Academic Integrity \(https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity\)](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity) and the [University of Toronto Website on Academic Integrity \(https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca\)](https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca).

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RADIO FREQUENCY DETECTORS

To maintain academic integrity, this course may use radio-frequency detectors during assessments to detect infractions. If you have any concerns about this, you are encouraged to immediately contact your instructor and the Accessibility Office.

EQUITY AND ACADEMIC RIGHTS

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

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 cultural and religious traditions. 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 (such as 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.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your 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 needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

DECLARATION OF TEMPORARY ABSENCE

Students who miss an academic obligation during the term (i.e., the midterm test or assignment) may use the ACORN Absence Declaration Tool to record an absence in one or more courses. Students may utilize this option once per term for a single absence period of up to seven consecutive days. The declaration period must include the day of declaration and may include past and/or future dates, for a total of up to 7 calendar days.

If the student is not eligible to use the Absence Declaration Tool for a missed test or assignment, then a detailed email setting out the reasons of the missed term work must be emailed to the instructor within 7 days of that work's deadline.

No Special Consideration Requests nor any medical notes are required.

It remains the student's responsibility to initiate the process for missed academic obligations by following the instructions in the course syllabus.

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.

Make Up Test

The Make-Up Test will be administered in person from 1:10 PM - 3PM in class during the week of Monday, November 24, 2025 to Friday, November 28, 2025.

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. The Make-Up Test is worth 20%.

RE-GRADING TERM WORK

A student who believes that their written term work has been unfairly marked may ask the person who marked the work for re-evaluation. Students have up to one month from the date of return of an item of term work to inquire about the mark. If the student is not satisfied with this re-evaluation, they may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the work was not marked by the instructor (e.g., was marked by a TA). Such re-marking may involve the entire piece of work and may raise or lower the mark. For more information on policies regarding re-marking of term work, please refer to [Re-marking Pieces of Term Work in the Academic Calendar](#).

MISSED FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Students who cannot complete their final examination due to illness or other serious causes must file an [online petition](#) with the Office of the Registrar within 72 hours of the missed examination. Late petitions will NOT be considered. Upon approval of a deferred exam request, a non-refundable fee is required for each examination approved. See the [Office of the Registrar Deferred Examinations](#) for more information.

PLAGIARISM DETECTION TOOL

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 Support & Innovation website (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

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 10, 2025

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