This is a syllabus from past semesters. The purpose is to give you a better idea about the content & policies of the course. Please note that the content of the course, the textbook used and its policies might change every semester specially when a different instructor teaches the course.

LAW 689
Law and Economics
Department of Economics • UIUC

Instructor: Thomas S. Ulen

Readings

There are also some other readings that I’ll discuss in class. I have marked those readings with an * in the reading list below. I have placed those readings, and some additional materials, on our course webpage. At the end of several of the sections of the course we shall take a brief interlude in which we’ll discuss one or all of the starred selections at the end of the section. Those selections represent advanced and new directions in the field of law and economics. You should be sure to read those selections and be ready to discuss them in class.

There are some additional law-and-economics resources that you may wish to consult during the semester. I have put the following materials on reserve: Judge Richard A. Posner’s Economic Analysis of Law (6th ed., 2003), a classic that covers much more than our text does and is far less technical; Mitch Polinsky, An Introduction to Law and Economics (3d ed., 2003); Steve Shavell, Foundations of Economic Analysis of Law (2004)¹; and the three-volume New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics and the Law, an invaluable research and resource tool in which the entries are all written by leading scholars in the field. If there are particular topics about which you would like to learn more, don’t hesitate to begin with the New Palgrave.

Class Meetings
The class will meet on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3 to 4:15 pm in Room B of the College of Law. I will be out of town Monday and Tuesday, September 19 and 20. We will soon schedule a make-up class or two for those missed classes. We may have several guest speakers throughout the semester. I’ll announce those speakers well in advance.

Grading
Your course grade will be determined by three factors: class attendance, class participation, and a final examination. If you are going to be absent from class, please let me know. Class attendance and participation will count for approximately 10 percent of your course grade. The final examination will count for approximately 90 percent.

The exam for the course will be a take-home exam. You will be able to pick it up beginning on Friday of the last week of classes, keep the exam for 48 hours (unless you are an LL.M. student whose native language is not English, in which case you will have 72 hours to complete the exam), and turn it in electronically and physically to my assistant, Sally Cook. I’ll provide more details on the exam at an early class meeting.

¹ Many of the chapters of this wonderful book are available as working papers from the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). I have placed some of those chapters on our course webpage.
Reading List and Course Syllabus

I. An Introduction to Law and Economics     August 22

COOTER & ULEN, LAW AND ECONOMICS Ch. 1.
DAU-SCHMIDT & ULEN, EDs., LAW AND ECONOMICS ANTHOLOGY (hereinafter LEA):

II. An Introduction to Microeconomic Theory     August 23 – 30

COOTER & ULEN, LAW AND ECONOMICS Ch. 2.
*The Arrow Impossibility Theorem.

III. The Economics of Property Law     September 6 – 27

A. An Economic Theory of Property
COOTER & ULEN, LAW AND ECONOMICS Ch. 4.
LEA:
The Coase Theorem

B. Applications of the Economic Theory of Property
COOTER & ULEN, LAW AND ECONOMICS Ch. 5.

IV. The Economics of Contract Law     October 3 – 18

A. An Economic Theory of Contract
COOTER & ULEN, LAW AND ECONOMICS Ch. 6.
LEA:

B. Applications of the Economic Theory of Contract
COOTER & ULEN, LAW AND ECONOMICS Ch. 7.
LEA:


V. The Economics of Tort Law  
October 24 – November 1
A. *An Economic Theory of Tort Liability*
COOTER & ULEN, LAW AND ECONOMICS Ch. 8.
LEA:

B. *Topics in the Economics of Tort Law*
COOTER & ULEN, LAW AND ECONOMICS Ch. 9.
LEA:

VI. The Economics of Litigation and the Efficiency of the Common Law Process  
November 7 and 8
COOTER & ULEN, LAW AND ECONOMICS Ch. 10.
*Marc Galanter, "The Vanishing Trial:: An Examination of Trials and Related Matters in Federal and State Courts," Symposium on the Vanishing Trial, Sponsored by the Litigation Section of the ABA (2004). (Appeared as 1 J. EMPIRICAL LEGAL STUD. 459 (2004).)

VII. The Economics of Crime and Punishment  
November 14, 15, and 28
COOTER & ULEN, LAW AND ECONOMICS Chs. 11 and 12.
LEA:

VIII. New Topics in Law and Economics  
November 29