

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics

Economics 381
Special Topics: Law and Economics
Winter 2011

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Office Hours: 1:30-2:30 Mondays and Wednesdays, or by appointment

Overview

This course uses economic theory to understand the general structure of law. It is not a law course. Specifically, it uses the economic model of decision making to examine how the law can be used to influence people's behaviour. It also considers the concept of economic efficiency as a criterion for evaluating laws. Topics include property (including intellectual property), contracts, torts, family law and crime. The course will be very much discussion oriented and the amount of time we spend on each topic will be determined by student interest.

This is a writing course, which means there is a very serious reading and writing component. There will be many readings over the course of the semester, generally from academic journals. You will be expected to keep up with the readings and be prepared to discuss them in class.

Assessment

Evaluation will be as follows:

- Participation (10%)
- Three (3) Short Written Assignments (10% each)
- In-class presentation (15%)
- Term Paper proposal (10%)
- Term Paper (35%)

Policy on Missed/Late Assignments:

Assignments and the proposal are due by the end of class on the due date given. A specific time and date will be given for the term paper. Late assignments (or proposal) will be receive a 20% penalty per 24 hour period.

Dealing with Plagiarism and Other Academic Offences:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 – Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 – Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 – Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity Website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity>

Note for students with disabilities. The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in NH 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.