

**University
of Victoria**

Economics

ECON 308 A01

Economics and the Law

Winter Session: 2024 09 – 11102; Unit Value 1.5; Contact hours 3-0-0

Classes: TWF 12:30 – 1:20 pm, DSB C118

UVic Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

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Course Content

Application of economic principles and methodology, including transactions costs and the Coase Theorem, to different areas of law. Areas include the law of property, torts and contracts, criminal, family, and corporate law.

We will spend some time on intellectual property; if time permits, an introduction to corporate law and/or family law will be included. Since this course is not a prerequisite for any other economics course at UVic, there is some flexibility regarding the topics covered.

Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to

- Explain the ways economists model property, torts, contracts and crime;
- Apply basic economic concepts such as opportunity cost, information, incentives, risk, supply, demand, returns to scale, and market power to policy issues in property, tort, contracts and crime;
- Explain the influence of economic reasoning on the law and of legal reasoning on the work of economists;
- Find and interpret published reasons for judicial decisions;

Skills you will practice:

- Using simple economic models to examine policy issues;
- Summarizing non-technical research papers.

Course prerequisites

Complete 1 of [ECON103](#) , [ECON103C](#), [ECON180](#);

Complete [ECON104](#)

Academic Writing Requirement satisfied.

Recommended: Econ 203

Textbook (required)

Cooter, R. and T. Ulen (2016), Law & Economics 6th edition

This book is available for free download (by chapter) at <https://lawcat.berkeley.edu/record/1127400?ln=en>

The text focuses on US law; we will use additional sources for information on the Canadian legal system and cases. These sources will include

Canada's System of Justice homepage: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/index.html>

Supreme Court of Canada homepage: <https://www.scc-csc.ca/home-accueil/index-eng.aspx>

Canadian Legal Information Institute: <https://www.canlii.org/en/>

See <https://blog.canlii.org/2021/06/29/canlii-pro-tip-a-guide-to-using-search-filters-on-canlii/> for a guide for searching this database.

Brightspace <https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/356618>

Brightspace is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system. The lecture notes will be posted in *Brightspace*. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures.

All announcements will be posted in *Brightspace*. Students are advised to check it frequently. The page will be available by September 3.

Grading Scheme

Participation:	10%
Assignment(s):	30 %
Midterm Exam(s):	25% (or 20%)*
Final Exam:	35% (or 40%)*

***Note: the midterm and the final are together worth 60% of your mark. If your percentage grade on the final is higher than your percentage grade on the midterm, your final will be worth 40% and the midterm worth 20%.**

Participation: based on participation in class and online discussions.

Assignment(s): there will be 4 assignments: Asgn 1 is a review of basic economic concepts and is worth 6 marks. The remaining 3 assignments are case studies, worth 8 marks each. Assignments can be submitted through Brightspace or in hard copy.

Midterm(s): The midterm exam is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16 and will be held in-class.

Final exam: 2 hours; during the examination period in December; the schedule is usually posted by mid/late October.

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. Failure to PASS THE FINAL will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage on the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.”

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F or N
90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	50-59	0-49

Students should review the University’s more detailed [summary of grading](#).

Missing Assessments

Should students encounter a situation where they miss an exam or cannot submit an assignment at its due date, they may qualify for an academic concession. Students are required to indicate the specific grounds on which they are requesting an academic concession and to provide a justification outlining the impact of the circumstances on their ability to complete course requirements. For in-course extensions, please [fill in the form and follow the instructions on the form](#). I will not respond to informal requests of academic concessions. If you miss the final exam, submit a [request for a deferral](#).

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. Students do not qualify for an academic concession if travel plans conflict with the examination date.

Course Policies

This course adheres to the [Undergraduate Course Policies](#) of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:

- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Sexualized violence prevention and response
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance:

Waitlist Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.

- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not participate as specified in this outline during the first 7 calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. A student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

Review [What is Plagiarism](#) for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

Student Code of Conduct

The Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences Faculties have adopted this [Student code of conduct](#). Please review.

University Policies

University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"

- [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- [Student Conduct](#)
- [Non-academic Student Misconduct](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Diversity / EDI](#)
- [Equity statement](#)
- Discrimination and Harassment [Policy](#)
- [Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness](#) - The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting www.uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact svpcoordinator@uvic.ca.

Resources for Students

[UVic Learn Anywhere](#) - UVic Learn Anywhere is the primary learning resource for students that offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.

[Centre for Accessible Learning](#) - Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

[Centre for Academic Communication](#) - Offers coaching on [academic integrity](#), including preventing accidental plagiarism. Provides support to students with time management, reading, writing, speaking, understanding academic expectations, and other aspects of academic communication as well as creating academic posters, blogposts, PowerPoint slides, and e-portfolios.

[Health Services](#) - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

[Support Connect](#) - a 24/7 mental health support service for students

- Toll-free (calls from North America): 1-844-773-1427
- International collect calls: 1-250-999-7621

[Counselling Services](#) - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

[Indigenous Student Services](#) - Indigenous UVic students have access to many sources of support on campus. Before, during and after your time at UVic, you are encouraged to explore programs and services available to you, such as [Indigenous counselling services](#) and the [Elders in Residence](#), as well as non-academic programs that may be of interest to you.

[International Student Support](#) - The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program.

For academic advising-related questions, students in the Economics Department are also encouraged to meet with the Economics Undergraduate Advisor (Brooklynn Comish-Trimble, ecadvice@uvic.ca) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#).

The International Student Liason in the Economics Department is Dr. Paul Schure who can help you connect with other international and domestic students in the Department. His email address is schure@uvic.ca. Please, reach out if you are interested.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future.

When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to the [CES log-in](#). You will use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be completed on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you

nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

What strengths did your **instructor** demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?

Please provide specific suggestions as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.

Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

Course Structure

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<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter in text</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Due Dates and Exam Information (Assignment due dates may be adjusted as course proceeds).</u>
<u>Introduction</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Economics background and key concepts</u>	<u>2: I-VII, IX</u> <u>3: I, III</u>	<u>1-2</u>	<u>Assignment 1 due by noon on Friday September 20</u>
<u>Economics and property law</u>	<u>4: I, IV-V</u> <u>5: I:A-B, III,</u> <u>IV: B</u>	<u>3-5</u>	<u>Case study on property law due by noon on Monday October 7</u>
<u>Economics and contracts + torts</u>	<u>6: I, II: A-F</u> <u>8: I-III</u> <u>10: I-IV</u>	<u>6-9</u>	<u>Midterm: October 16, in class</u> <u>Case study on contracts or torts due by noon</u>
<u>Economics and crime I</u>	<u>12: I, II: A-D</u>	<u>10-11</u>	
<u>Reading break</u>			<u>November 12-13</u>
<u>Economics and crime II</u>			<u>Case study on crime due by noon on Friday November 29</u>
<u>Economics and corporate law (time permitting</u>		<u>12</u>	
<u>Summary of course</u>		<u>13</u>	<u>Last class: December 1</u>

E-mail Correspondence

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class or an exam, or a prolonged illness. You must include the course name and number in the subject line. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear....), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your **full name and V#**. Text message lingo should not be used.

Electronic Devices

In order to minimize distractions for me and the other students, please turn off or silence your phone during class. If this is a serious inconvenience for you— family or business needs, for example – please let me know.

Use of AI

I might use AI generated output as a source for discussion and evaluation.
AI output may not be used by students on assignments.