

School of Economics and Finance

ECON 330 LAW & ECONOMICS
(co-taught with LAWS 335)

Trimester One 2009

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Lecturers

Lewis Evans (course coordinator)
Room RH 316
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Dr Veronica Jacobsen
Ministry of Justice
Tel: (04) 894 2947

Teaching assistant and Associate Lecturer

Richard Robinson (Solicitor)
Russell McVeagh
Tel: (04) 819 7518
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Merrin Blight (Senior Advisor)
Ministry of Justice
Tel: (04) 894 2948
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Class Times and Room Numbers

This is a first trimester course. Tutorials and review sessions will be every week starting on week 2.

Lecture Times and Location

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 8.30am - 9.20am in RHLT2

Tutorial Requirements, Times and Location

Wednesday: 5.40pm – 6.30pm in GBLT2 (Tutor – Richard Robinson)

Thursday: 5.40pm – 6.30pm in RHLT3 (Tutor – Merrin Blight)

Assignment Box #77 – R Robinson, Mezzanine floor, Rutherford House
Assignment Box #70 – M Blight, Mezzanine floor, Rutherford House

Withdrawal dates: Information available via

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawlsrefunds.aspx>

Course Objectives and Expectations

This course is an introduction to the economic analysis of law and legal institutions. It has the objectives that at the conclusion of the course students should be able to

C1	comprehend and articulate the framework that economics provides for the assessment of legal rules and institutions
C2	comprehend and articulate economic principles sufficient to apply economic analysis to seemingly disparate areas of the law
C3	explain and appraise the economic bases of legal systems
C4	explain and use the economic basis of property law
C5	explain and use the economic basis of contract law
C6	explain and use the economic basis of tort law
C7	explain and use the economic basis of criminal law
C8	explain and use the economic basis of law relating to competition and regulation
C9	explain and use the economic basis of corporate and bankruptcy law
C10	evaluate case outcomes in the context of law and economics

These expectations for the course reflect the fact that written and oral English skills are essential. Like most law courses, there is a lot of reading of complex materials, and cases often contain arcane language and convoluted argument. Like most economics courses, you need to be able to identify key issues and to present well-structured written or oral analysis succinctly and cogently. Familiarity with the principles of economics and of the legal system is helpful, but not essential, as they are taught in the course.

The more practice you get at applying economic reasoning to the law and legal issues, the better you will do in this course. Read the materials before you come to lectures and prepare answers to the questions that will be asked in class. Come to all the lectures and contribute to class discussion - it will help your economic reasoning and hone your ability to present oral analytical arguments. Make sure that you complete all the coursework. It is designed to help build your economic thinking and ability to present written economic analysis of the law and legal issues.

LAWS 335 or ECON 330

LAWS 335 students get 15 points for the course, and ECON 330 students get 24 points. Workload and assessment therefore differ between the two courses. LAWS 335 students are not required to do the essay.

Expected Workload

Approximately 150 hours, plus additional hours for the essay, spread evenly over the 12 week trimester, study week and exam period.

Readings

Textbook

Cento Veljanovski, (2007) *Economic Principles of Law*, Cambridge University Press.

Substitute Textbook

Cooter, Robert and Thomas Ulen (2003) *Law and Economics* (Addison-Wesley) 5th ed. <
<http://www.cooter-ulen.com/> and http://occ.awlonline.com/bookbind/pubbooks/cooter_ulen/>

Informal Background Reading

Levitt, Steven D. & Stephen J. Dubner, *Freakonomics*, Penguin Books, 2005

Readings

Required readings and cases will be made available or indicated on Blackboard.

Course Content

Week			
1	Mon 2 March L1 Introduction	Tue 3 March L2 Economic Principles	Thu 5 March L3 Economic Principles
2	Mon 9 March L4 Economic Principles	Tue 10 March L5 Economic Principles	Thu 12 March L6 Property
3	Mon 16 March L7 Property	Tue 17 March L8 Property Assignment 1 due	Thu 19 March L9 Property
4	Mon 23 March L10 Legal System	Tue 24 March L11 Legal System	Thu 26 March L12 Legal System
5	Mon 30 March L13 Legal System	Tue 31 March L14 Public Choice	Thu 2 April L15 Public Choice Assignment 2 due
6	Mon 6 April L16 Contract	Tue 7 April; L17 Contract	Thu 9 April L18 Contract
	Mon 13 April Mid-Trimester Break Easter Monday	Tue 14 April Mid-Trimester Break	Thu 16 April Mid-Trimester Break
	Mon 20 April Mid-Trimester Break	Tue 21 April Mid-Trimester Break	Thu 23 April Mid-Trimester Break
7	Mon 27 April L19 Contract Assignment 3 due	Tue 28 April L20 Contract	Thu 30 April L21 Tort
8	Mon 4 May L22 Tort	Tue 5 May L23 Tort	Thu 7 May L24 Regulation
9	Mon 11 May L25 Regulation	Tue 12 May L26 Regulation Assignment 4 due	Thu 14 May L27 Competition Law
10	Mon 18 May L28 Competition Law	Tue 19 May L29 Competition Law	Thu 21 May L30 Crime
11	Mon 25 May L31 Crime	Tue 26 May L32 Corporate Law	Thu 28 May L33 Corporate Law
12	Mon 1 June Queen's birthday	Tue 2 June L34 Bankruptcy Law Essay due	Thu 4 June L35 Bankruptcy Law
	Mon 8 June Study Break	Tue 9 June Study Break	Thu 11 June Study Break

Assessment Requirements

The assessment for the course will consist of four brief equally weighted assignments, an essay and a final examination.

Item	Weighting	
	Laws 335	Econ 330
4 Brief Assignments	40%	30%
Short (2000 word) Essay	-	20%
Final Examination	60%	50%
Total	100%	100%

Due Dates

Assignment	1	2	3	4
Due Date	17 March	2 April	27 April	12 May

Essay: due date 2 June

Mandatory Course Requirements (MCRs)

MCRs will be satisfied if all assignments are completed.

Examinations

The final examination period is from Friday 12 June to Wednesday 1 July. Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

Communication of Additional Information

Communication will generally be via Blackboard. Other information, eg, lecture cancellations, will be posted on the notice board located in the OGB (Law School) on the ground floor opposite the lifts and outside the Lecture Theatres 1 & 2.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student and Academic Services Office

The Faculty's Student and Academic Services Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building on the ground floor (EA005). This counter is the first point of contact for:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Assignment submission

Some assignments will be automatically checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the internet, books, journals, periodicals or other students. Turnitin is used to assist your lecturer in detecting mis-referencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. The decision about whether any copying is plagiarism will be made in the first instance by the lecturer based on the information supplied by Turnitin. You are strongly advised to check with your lecturer if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any third party.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website www.victoria.ac.nz/fca under Important Information for Students:

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning

- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the services and support they need while studying at Victoria. Another feature of the programme is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.

For further information, or to register with the programme, email manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 6015. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5842.

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