

School of Economics and Finance

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

Trimester One 2010

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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**Names and Contact Details**

Lecturers

Lewis Evans (course coordinator)

Room RH 316

Tel: (04) 463 5560 or (0274) 545 053

Email: lew.evans@vuw.ac.nz

Dr Veronica Jacobsen

Ministry of Justice

Tel: (04) 894 2947

Teaching Assistant and Tutor (contact by email preferred)

Angela Young

PhD Candidate

School of Economic and Finance, VUW

Email: Angela.Young@vuw.ac.nz

Haidee Leung

Solicitor

Russell McVeagh

Email: haidee.leung@russellmcveagh.com

**Trimester Dates**

**Teaching Period:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010

**Study Period:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010

**Examination Period:** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 (inclusive)

**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 Friday 4.40pm – 5.30pm in GBLT1

Tutorial Requirements, Times and Location

Wednesday: 5.40pm – 6.30pm in GBLT2 (tutor – Haidee Leung)

Thursday: 4.40pm – 5.30pm in GBLT2 (tutor – Angela Young)

Thursday: 5.40pm – 6.30pm in GBLT2 (tutor – Angela Young)

**Assignment Box #70** – H Leung, Mezzanine floor, Rutherford House

**Assignment Box #77** – A Young, Mezzanine floor, Rutherford House

## 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

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

### **Readings**

#### ***Textbook***

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

#### ***Close 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/](http://occ.awlonline.com/bookbind/pubbooks/cooter_ulen/)>

### ***Informal Background Reading***

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

Grant Morris, *Law Alive: the New Zealand Legal System in Context*, Oxford University Press, 2009, pp.224

### ***Readings***

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

### **Course Content**

<b>Week</b>			
1	Mon 1 March <b>L1 Introduction</b>	Tue 2 March <b>L2 Economic Principles</b>	Fri 5 March <b>L3 Economic Principles</b>
2	Mon 8 March <b>L4 Economic Principles</b>	Tue 9 March <b>L5 Economic Principles</b>	Fri 12 March <b>L6 Property</b>
3	Mon 15 March <b>L7 Property</b>	Tue 16 March <b>L8 Property</b> <b>Assignment 1 due</b>	Fri 19 March <b>L9 Property</b>
4	Mon 22 March <b>L10 Legal System</b>	Tue 23 March <b>L11 Legal System</b>	Fri 26 March <b>L12 Legal System</b>
5	Mon 29 March <b>L13 Public Choice</b>	Tue 30 March <b>L14 Public Choice</b> <b>Assignment 2 due</b>	Fri 2 April <b>Mid-Trimester Break</b> <b>Good Friday</b>
	Mon 5 April <b>Mid-Trimester Break</b> <b>Easter Monday</b>	Tue 6 April; <b>Mid-Trimester Break</b>	Fri 9 April <b>Mid-Trimester Break</b>
	Mon 12 April <b>Mid-Trimester Break</b>	Tue 13 April <b>Mid-Trimester Break</b>	Fri 16 April <b>Mid-Trimester Break</b>
6	Mon 19 April <b>L15 Contract</b>	Tue 20 April <b>L16 Contract</b>	Fri 23 April <b>L17 Contract</b>
7	Mon 26 April <b>L18 Contract</b> <b>Assignment 3 due</b>	Tue 27 April <b>L19 Contract</b>	Fri 30 April <b>L20 Tort</b>
8	Mon 3 May <b>L21 Tort</b>	Tue 4 May <b>L22 Tort</b>	Fri 7 May <b>L23 Regulation</b>
9	Mon 10 May <b>L24 Regulation</b>	Tue 11 May <b>L25 Regulation</b> <b>Assignment 4 due</b>	Fri 14 May <b>L26 Competition Law</b>
10	Mon 17 May <b>L27 Competition Law</b>	Tue 18 May <b>L28 Competition Law</b>	Fri 21 May <b>L29 Crime</b>
11	Mon 24 May <b>L30 Crime</b>	Tue 25 May <b>L31 Crime</b>	Fri 28 May <b>L32 Corporate Law</b>
12	Mon 31 May <b>L33 Corporate Law</b>	Tue 1 June <b>L34 Bankruptcy Law</b> <b>Essay due</b>	Fri 4 June <b>L35 Bankruptcy Law</b>
	Mon 7 June <b>Study Break</b>	Tue 8 June <b>Study Break</b>	Fri 11 June Examinations
	Mon 14 June Examinations	Tue 15 June Examinations	Fri 19 June Examinations
	Mon 21 June Examinations	Tue 22 June Examinations	Fri 26 June Examinations

### Expected Workload

A total of 150 hours of work is expected from students in this course. That consists of 34 hours of classes, eight hours per week outside classes during teaching weeks spent reading, studying and writing assignments, and a further 20 hours revising during the mid-trimester break and study week

### Assessment Requirements

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

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

### Due Dates

Assignment	1	2	3	4
Due Date	16 March	30 March	26 April	11 May

*Essay*: due date 1st June

**Students must screen their essays through Turnitin before submission. Essays will not be accepted unless a valid Turnitin report is attached to the back of the essay.**

There is no detailed marking schedule for individual sections of the essay. This is because it is important for the essay as a whole to make sense. Details of the procedures to be used in relation to Turnitin will be posted on Blackboard.

### Penalties and Prizes

No assignment or essay that is handed in late will be marked.

### Mandatory Course Requirements

Terms will be awarded if all assignments are completed.

*Note: Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.*

### Communication of Additional Information

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

## **Examinations**

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

The final TWO HOUR examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the period from **Friday 11<sup>h</sup> June – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010**. This is a closed book exam.

## **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

## **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning, are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties on the University's website:

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.html](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.html)

## **Use of Turnitin**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. 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.

## **Withdrawing from Courses**

The deadline for withdrawing from courses with a full fees refund is **Friday 12 March 2010**. After that date, an application for a fees reconsideration may be made only if there are exceptional circumstances for the withdrawal. Any application must be accompanied by documented evidence. See Fees Statute, section 4.12 (p89, 2010 *Calendar*).

There is a deadline for withdrawing from courses without having to get approval. For trimester 1, 2010 courses that deadline is **Friday 14 May 2010**. After that date, approval of the Deputy Dean is required for

withdrawal from Law courses. Approval may only be given if the relevant criteria are met. Those criteria are in the Personal Courses of Study Statute, section 8 (see p124 of the 2010 VUW *Calendar*). **NOTE:** a student may not withdraw after the deadline merely to avoid a failing grade.

Forms for late withdrawal and fees reconsideration are available from the Undergraduate Administrator, Patricia Hetherington, [patricia.hetherington@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:patricia.hetherington@vuw.ac.nz)

### **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 the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC(Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)

See also the 2010 Law Faculty Undergraduate Prospectus pp37-56 for further information, including assessment in te reo Māori: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/law/downloads.aspx>

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