

School of Economics and Finance

## **ECON 330 and LAWS 335: LAW AND ECONOMICS (co-taught)**

Trimester One 2012

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

---

#### **Names and Contact Details**

##### Lecturers

Lewis Evans (course coordinator)  
Room RH 206  
Tel: (04) 463 5560 or (0274) 545 053  
[lew.evans@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:lew.evans@vuw.ac.nz)

James Every-Palmer  
Partner  
Russell McVeagh  
[james.everypalmer@russellmcveagh.com](mailto:james.everypalmer@russellmcveagh.com)

Haidee Leung  
Solicitor  
Russell McVeagh  
Wellington  
[haidee.leung@russellmcveagh.com](mailto:haidee.leung@russellmcveagh.com)

##### Administrator

Alice Fong  
Room: RH 318  
[alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz)

#### **Trimester Dates**

**Teaching Period:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012

**Study Period:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012

**Examination Period:** Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 (inclusive)

#### **Withdrawal from Courses:**

Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 16 March 2012.

The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 18 May 2012. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an “*Application for Associate Dean’s Permission to Withdraw Late*” including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty of Commerce’s Student Customer Service Desks.



## Course Learning Objectives

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 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.

## Course Delivery

Generally two lectures per week and a structured Question-Discussion period. The Question-Discussion period will be replaced with a lecture in at most three weeks. It will often be offered jointly by a lawyer and economist.

## Expected Workload

Over the 15 week period of the course and study time an average workload might reasonably be 150 hours.

## Readings

### *Textbook*

Cooter, Robert and Thomas Ulen, *Law and Economics* (Addison-Wesley) 6th ed.

### *Close Substitute Textbook*

Cooter, Robert and Thomas Ulen, *Law and Economics* (Addison-Wesley) 5th ed.

*Possible Substitute Textbook*

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

**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

**Other**

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

**Assessment Requirements**

The assessment for the course will consist of a test, an essay and a final examination

Item	Weight in Final Grade	Dates
Short (2000 word) Essay	30%	Submit by 6 June
Test (1 hour)	20%	5.30-6.30pm 26 April
Final Examination (2 hour)	50%	TBA
Total	100%	

There will be non-assessable assignments provided for discussion at the Question-Discussion sessions.

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 University programmes. All material used for such purposes will be treated as confidential and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

**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 examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the period from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of June – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2012 (inclusive).

**Penalties**

No essay that is handed in late will be marked.

**Mandatory Course Requirements**

Completion of both the test and essay is mandatory.

**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.

**Communication of Information**

Course information will be conveyed by Blackboard

## **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. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the school and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

**For the following important information follow the links provided:**

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **General University Policies and Statutes**

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study>.

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>.

The University's statutes and policies are available at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx>, (see Section C).

Further information University's academic processes can be found on the academic website can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at [http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home\\_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx).

### **AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support**

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

### **Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices**

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/>

### **Faculty of Law Offices**

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/law/studenthelp/>

### **Te Putahi Atawhai**

#### **Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme**

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/tpa/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/)

\*\*\*\*\*