

Econ 484: Law and Economics Spring 2019

Professor Colleen Schultz
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T/TH 11:00 a.m.
111 DKH

Required Text: Cooter and Ulen, Law and Economics (6th ed.). This text will be available on the Compass2g site for the course. (Compass2g.illinois.edu)

Prerequisites: Principles and Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Course Goals and Objectives: The goal of this course is to help you achieve a basic understanding of the economic analysis of several areas of law in the United States. We will cover topics related to encouraging and incentivizing economically efficient and socially desirable behavior through examining property law, contract law, tort law and criminal law.

Assessment: Your grade for the course will be based on exams (72%) and class participation (28%.) Exams will be held during class time. There will be no makeup exams. Any student who misses an exam for a valid reason will use future exam(s) as a substitute for the missing exam grade (last exam uses earlier exams.) Participation is more than attendance. It is thoughtfully and appropriately contributing to class discussion. Contributing includes answering questions, asking questions, and participating in a way that permits all students to be included in the conversation. Students enrolled for graduate credit will need to do a class presentation in addition to the exams and class participation.

Grading Scale: The percentage cutoffs for each grade will be as follows:

Grade	Percent
A-, A, A+	90-100%
B-, B, B+	80-89.99%
C-, C, C+	70-79.99%
D-, D, D+	60-69.99%
F	0-59.99%

I reserve the right to curve the course at the end of the semester. Student grades will not decrease due to a curve. Truly exceptional situations are dealt with on an individual basis. If you “need” or “want” a certain grade in the course, you should work hard and study diligently from the beginning of the semester; there will be nothing you can do to raise your grade above what you have earned. Once the scale is assigned by the instructor at the end of the course, no exceptions will be made; we do not round grades up.

Accommodations and honors agreements: We do not offer honors learning agreements for this course. Disability Accommodations -To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact Disability Resources and

Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TTY), or e-mail a message to disability@uiuc.edu. Any student registered with DRES requires accommodations should talk to me before or after class and then email me their RFA letter at least two weeks before accommodations are needed (earlier if possible).

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class and to be on time. Students with poor attendance records tend to do poorly on the exams. I strongly urge you to attend all of the class sessions. Students are responsible for what is communicated in class. If you miss a class, you should read the textbook and get the notes from another student in class—I will not provide a “recap” for students who miss class. Students who miss too much class will be referred to their dean regarding whether it is appropriate to remain enrolled in the course. Students are also expected to pay attention in class, to work on in-class group questions when asked and to refrain from texting/cell phone use, doing other class work, talking during lecture times, etc. Laptop computers, tablets, etc. are not allowed in the classroom.

Cell phones should be turned off before you enter the classroom. Cell phone use is prohibited during class, including texting, etc. The use of any electronic device during exams is prohibited. Any use of cell phones or other electronic devices during exams will be considered cheating and will be dealt with accordingly.

Policy on Cheating: Violations of academic integrity as described in the Student Code will be taken extremely seriously. Students found cheating in the course (or helping others to cheat) will be penalized according to the code’s guidelines.

Course Content: As time permits, we will cover the following topics in the required textbook (with some sections in those chapters omitted):

- Chapters 2,3 Microeconomic Theory & The Law
- Chapters 4,5 Property Law
- Chapters 8,9 Contract Law
- Chapters 6,7 Tort Law
- Chapters 12, 13 Criminal Law (as time permits)

Additional course policies and information will be found on our Compass2g site: Compass2g.illinois.edu.