

Legal Studies 145, Law and Economics I  
Introduction to Law and Economics  
Fall 2009  
Tu & Thur, 8:00-9:30a.m. in 101 Barker  
Professor Robert Cooter  
792 Simon Tower, Law School  
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Office hour: Monday 2-3:00 pm  
Office hour by appointment: Tuesday 1:30-2:30

#### The Sequence:

The economic analysis of law is one of the major theoretical perspectives in the study of law in American universities. Law and Economics I and II, taken together, provide a comprehensive survey of the subject. Part I (Legal Studies 145) concerns the common law (property, torts, contracts) and crimes. Part II (Legal Studies 147) concerns public law, including such areas as constitutional law, administrative law, environmental law, and regulated industries. Students can take either or both courses in any order.

#### Subject Matter of Law and Economics I:

Microeconomic theory will be applied to legal rules and procedures in property, torts, contracts, and crimes. We will compare the economic consequences of different legal rules and remedies.

#### Prerequisites:

There is no formal prerequisite, but students are strongly discouraged from taking the course unless they have had intermediate microeconomics (Econ 100A or equivalent). Graphs and algebra will be used routinely in class.

#### Materials:

The textbook for the class is Robert Cooter and Thomas Ulen, Law and Economics (Addison-Wesley, 5th edition, 2003). Note that the 5<sup>th</sup> edition is substantially different than earlier editions. The web site for the book is [www.cooter-ulen.com/](http://www.cooter-ulen.com/) and [/www.law.berkeley.edu/institutes/law\\_econ/](http://www.law.berkeley.edu/institutes/law_econ/). A useful complement to the text is A. Mitchell Polinsky, *An Introduction to Law and Economics* (2nd ed., 1989).

#### Conduct of Class:

The class will be taught by lectures with some questions posed to students. Students should read the assigned materials before coming to class so as to be prepared to answer questions in class. The lectures parallel the text, so lecture notes are not very valuable compared to reading the book.

#### Grades:

Grades will be based upon a midterm (approximately 30%), a final examination (approximately 60%), and participation in section (approximately 10%). Students may use books or notes during the examinations, but anyone who must consult these materials extensively during the exam is in trouble. Grades will fit the curve for A's, B's, and C's recommended for large classes by the Legal Studies program.

Exams Date:

Students are obligated to take exams at the scheduled times (no exceptions). Students can use the book and notes during exams. Exams should be written in blue books. The midterm will be held on approximately the 15<sup>th</sup> class meeting. I'll make a definite announcement in class well in advance.

Enrollment:

TELEBEARS handles enrollment in the class by applying university rules developed to establish fair priorities. Professor Cooter will not respond to appeals to change these priorities for individuals, because doing so is unfair to others.