Faculty of Science Course Syllabus
Department of Economics
ECON 2212: Law and Economics
Winter 2019

Instructor(s):  Tyler James    tylerjames@dal.ca
Lectures:     Mondays from 5:35 – 8:25pm
Tutorials:    Tutorials will be held prior to examinations

Course Description

Law and Economics is the study of optimal legal frameworks. Microeconomic theory will be used to study the efficiencies of property, contract, tort, criminal, and antitrust law. Further, there will be a critical analysis of the role of the Competition Bureau in Canadian markets, and the tools used to evaluate transactions on a case by case basis.

Course Prerequisite

- ECON 1101: Principles of Microeconomics

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This course will provide a broad overview of the relationship between law and economics, as well as the basics of Canada's legal system. Students will acquire the skills to evaluate efficiencies and the basic theories of ownership, contract, tort and criminal law.

Students will also learn how the Competition Bureau operates, with a focus on the skills used to analyze proposed transactions and their potential market effects.

No prior knowledge of the law is required.

Course Materials

- Cooter, R and Ulen, T. Law and Economics 6th edition ("Cooter")
  - Available free at: http://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/books/2/
- Handbook of Law and Economics (Two volumes and available free online) ("HLE")

Reference Materials (optional)

- Polinsky, M. An Introduction to the Economic Analysis of Law, Aspen
- Posner, Richard. Economic Analysis of Law, Aspen
Course Assessment
Your grade in this course will derive from 4 major assessments. Two midterms will be held during class, along with a group presentation and a final examination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight (% of final grade)</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>February 11, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>March 4, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 8, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>During Exam Period</td>
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Conversion of numerical grades to Final Letter Grades follows the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-54</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>55-59</td>
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Course Policies
See attached Schedule "A" for all relevant University Policies and Statements.

Course Content

1. An Introduction to Law and Economics (Cooter, Ch. 1)

2. Overview of Economic Theory of the Legal Process (Cooter, Ch. 3 and HLE, Ch. 4)

3. Property Law (Cooter, Ch. 4 and 5 and HLE, Ch. 4):
   (a) Coase theorem and Bargaining
   (b) Public vs Private Property
   (c) Property Rights and Enforcement
   (d) Remedies

4. Intellectual Property (Cooter, Ch. 5 and HLE Ch. 19)

5. Contract Law (Cooter, Ch. 6 and 7)
   (a) Bargain Theory
   (b) Contract Enforcement
   (c) Contract Remedies
   (d) Defences

6. Tort Law (Cooter, Ch. 8 and 9, and HLE, Ch. 2)
   (a) What is Tort Law?
   (b) Economics and Tort Liability
   (c) Damages

7. Criminal Law (Cooter Ch. 12, HLE Ch. 5)
8. Competition Law
   (a) The Competition Bureau
   (b) Transactional analysis and the effect on Canadian markets

9. Student Presentations

Course Project

Students will be required to complete a course project throughout the term that will incorporate both a written and optional presentation component. The Project may be a review of a single published article from select Law and Economics journals, a review of recent Canadian jurisprudence in the area of Competition law (although other areas of law may be allowed) or on other areas of research in the field of law and economics. Students should seek approval for the subject of their project prior to the submission of their project proposal.

The project will have four significant deadlines:

1. Project Proposal (due last class of January) worth 5%
2. Submission of Final Paper (due the last class of March) worth 65 or 95%
3. Optional Presentation (April 8) worth 30%

The paper should be double spaced, and between 3 and 6 pages in length.

The presentation should be no longer than five minutes in length.
Schedule "A"

University Policies and Statements

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and by Senate

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

Information: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (Canada and Nova Scotia).

Information: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don’t follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can’t be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.


Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness

Statement: http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html

Recognition of Mi’kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi’kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit or e-mail the Indigenous Student Centre (1321 Edward St) (elders@dal.ca).

Information: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)

https://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

University Grading Practices

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html

Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence (policy)
Student Resources and Support

Advising

General Advising: [https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html)

Science Program Advisors: [https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/academic-advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/academic-advising.html)


International Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre/current-students.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre/current-students.html)

Academic supports

Library: [https://libraries.dal.ca/](https://libraries.dal.ca/)

Writing Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html)

Studying for Success: [https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html)

Copyright Office: [https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html](https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html)

Fair Dealing Guidelines: [https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing.html](https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing.html)

Other supports and services


Student Advocacy: [https://dsu.ca/dsas](https://dsu.ca/dsas)


Safety

Biosafety: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html)

Chemical Safety: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html)


Scent-Free Program: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html)