

**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

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### **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* 6<sup>th</sup> 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)

- Landes, W. and R. Posner *The Economic Structure of Intellectual Property Law*, Harvard 2003
- Polinsky, M. *An Introduction to the Economic Analysis of Law*, Aspen
- Posner, Richard. *Economic Analysis of Law*, Aspen

- Shavell, Steven *Foundations of Economic Analysis of Law*, Harvard

### 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.

Component	Weight (% of final grade)	Date
• Midterm 1	20%	February 11, 2019
• Midterm 2	20%	March 4, 2019
• Project	20%	April 8, 2019
• Final Exam	40%	During Exam Period

### Conversion of numerical grades to Final Letter Grades follows the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale

<b>A+</b> (90-100)	<b>B+</b> (77-79)	<b>C+</b> (65-69)	<b>D</b>	(50-54)
<b>A</b> (85-89)	<b>B</b> (73-76)	<b>C</b> (60-64)	<b>F</b>	(<50)
<b>A-</b> (80-84)	<b>B-</b> (70-72)	<b>C-</b> (55-59)		

### 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. 3):
  - (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)

- (a) Efficient deterring of crime
- 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.

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## 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](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](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.

**Code:** [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html)

#### **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](mailto:elders@dal.ca)).

**Information:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](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](https://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html)

#### **University Grading Practices**

[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html)

#### **Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence (policy)**

[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html)

## 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>

**Indigenous Student Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html)

**Black Students Advising Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/black-student-advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-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/>

**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>

**Fair Dealing Guidelines** <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing.html>

### Other supports and services

**Student Health & Wellness Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness/services-support/student-health-and-wellness.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/services-support/student-health-and-wellness.html)

**Student Advocacy:** <https://dsu.ca/dsas>

**Ombudsperson:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html)

### Safety

**Biosafety:** <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html>

**Chemical Safety:** <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html>

**Radiation Safety:** <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html>

**Scent-Free Program:** <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>