

Faculty of Science Course Syllabus
Department of Economics
ECON 2212: Law and Economics
Winter 2023

Instructor(s): Tyler James tylerjames@dal.ca

Lectures: Mondays from 5:35 to 8:25pm

Office Hours: Office Hours held by request. Optional review classes will be held prior to assessments.

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
 - Available free at: <http://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/books/2/>

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

- Handbook of Law and Economics (Two volumes and available free online)

Course Assessment

Your grade in this course will derive from 4 major assessments.

Component	Weight (% of final grade)	Date
• Assignment 1	20%	Week of February 13, 2022
• Assignment 2	20%	Week of March 13, 2022
• Project	20%	April 3
• Final Exam	40%	During Exam Period

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

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

Course Policies

See attached Schedule "A" for all relevant University Policies and Statements.

Course Content

1. An Introduction to Law and Economics
2. Overview of Economic Theory of the Legal Process
3. Property Law:
 - (a) Coase theorem and Bargaining
 - (b) Public vs Private Property
 - (c) Property Rights and Enforcement
 - (d) Remedies
4. Intellectual Property
5. Contract Law
 - (a) Bargain Theory
 - (b) Contract Enforcement
 - (c) Contract Remedies
 - (d) Defences
6. Tort Law
 - (a) What is Tort Law?
 - (b) Economics and Tort Liability
 - (c) Damages
7. Litigation/Criminal Law

- (a) Efficient deterring of crime
 - (b) Settlement of Proceedings
8. Securities/Competition Law
- (a) The Competition Bureau
 - (b) Transactional analysis and the effect on Canadian markets

Course Project

Students will be required to complete a course project throughout the term that will incorporate both a written and 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 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 topic prior to February 27th via posting on the applicable Brightspace Forum. Duplicative topics will not be permitted.

The project will have the following deadlines:

- 1. Written Submission worth 60%
- 2. Presentation worth 40%

A grading scheme for the written submission will be provided at a later date.

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.

Code: 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).

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)

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

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

Black Students Advising Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html

International Centre: 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

Studying for Success: 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

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

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>