

Johns Hopkins University
Krieger School of Arts & Sciences

Law & Economics
440.639

Spring 2008
Wednesday: 6:30pm

Objective: The course is an application of standard microeconomic theory and concepts to the following areas of law: property, contract, tort, criminal, and antitrust. After taking the course, students should have the ability to analyze the likely economic impacts of legal rules.

Text: Cooter, Robert and Thomas Ulen, LAW AND ECONOMICS, 4th edition, (Addison-Wesley). [Referred to as C&U below.] In addition, outside articles and cases will be assigned. I will distribute these readings directly or they will be made available electronically through the JHU electronic library reserve program: www.library.jhu.edu/access/reserves/findit/articles/index.php. The following Web site has instructions to configure your computer to access articles remotely: www.library.jhu.edu/services/computing/remotearchive.html.

Course

Requirements: Participation and an article review will comprise 10% of the course grade. Two problem sets will comprise 20% of the course grade. The midterm will be worth 30% and the **cumulative** final will be worth 40%. **Missed Exams: No make up exams are given.** If you must miss an exam for an excusable reason, **you must contact me prior to the exam.** Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the missed exam. For an excused absence, the completed tests and assignments will be weighted more heavily in place of the missed exam.

Contact: James Cooper
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Ethics

Statement: The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violation include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. Report any violations you witness to the instructor.

Course Schedule

<u>Week #</u>	<u>Topics and Assignments</u>
1 (January 23)	INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW OF U.S. LEGAL SYSTEM <i>Assignment: C&U, chs 1,3.</i>
2 (January 30)	EFFICIENCY OF THE COMMON LAW <i>Assignment: C&U, ch. 3; Rubin, Why is the Common Law Efficient?, 6 J. LEG. STUD. 51 (1977); Zywicki, The Rise and Fall of Efficiency in the Common Law: A Supply Side Analysis, 97 N. WESTERN L. REV. 1551 (2003).</i>
3 (February 6)	PROPERTY <i>Assignment: C&U ch.4; Bailey, Approximate Optimality of Aboriginal Property Rights, JOURNAL OF LAW AND ECONOMICS (1992); Coase, The Problem of Social Cost, 3 JOURNAL OF LAW & ECONOMICS 1 (1960); Calbresi & Melamed, Property Rules, Liability Rules, and Inalienability: One View of the Cathedral, 85 HARV. L. REV. 1089 (1972).</i>
4 (February 13)	PROPERTY <i>Assignment: C&U ch. 5; MGM v. Grokster; Kelo v. New London.</i>
5 (February 20)	CONTRACTS <i>Assignment: C&U, chs. 6-7;</i>
6 (February 27)	CONTRACTS <i>Williams v. Walker-Thomas Furniture, Klein & Leffler, The Role of Market Forces in Assuring Contractual Performance, 89 JOURNAL OF POLITICAL ECONOMY 615 (1981).</i>
7 (March 5)	TORTS <i>Assignment: C&U ch. 8; Midterm Review.</i>
8 (March 12)	Midterm Exam: Wednesday 6:30 pm
9 (March 19)	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS
10 (March 26)	TORTS <i>Assignment: C&U, ch. 9; Rubin & Shepherd, Tort Reform and Accident, 50 J.L. & ECON. 221 (2007).</i>
11 (April 2)	CRIMINAL LAW <i>Assignment: C&U, chs. 11 & 12; Rubin et al., Does Capital Punishment Have a Deterrent Effect? New Evidence from Postmoratorium Panel Data, 5 AM. LAW & ECONOMICS REVIEW 344 (2003); Rubin & Dezhbakhsh, Lives Saved or Lives Lost? The Effects of Concealed-Handgun Laws on Crime, 88 AM. ECON. REV. 468 (1998).</i>
12 (April 9)	COMPETITION LAW <i>Assignment: Viscusi et al., ECONOMICS OF REGULATION AND ANTITRUST, Ch. 3, 5, 7-9</i>

13 COMPETITION LAW
(April 16) *Law Offices of Curtis v. Trinko v. Verizon; Leegin v. PSKS Inc.; Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly; Cooper et al., Vertical Antitrust Policy as a Problem of Inference*, 23 INT'L J. INDUSTRIAL ORG. 639 (2005).

14 COMPETITION LAW
(April 23) *Parker v. Brown; E. R.R. Presidents' Conference v. Noerr*; Final Review

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 5, 6:30 p.m.