

**Economics 5380 and 6380**  
**Law and Economics**  
**Spring 2021**

**Professor Mark Glick**

Office Hours: By appointment

E-mail: [glick@economics.utah.edu](mailto:glick@economics.utah.edu)

**Prerequisites:** Economics 2010 recommended

**Course Overview:**

From the Preface of Cooter and Ulen:

“The economic analysis of law has already had a profound impact on legal scholarship. It has been said that the study of law and economics is the most important development in the field of law in the last fifty years. A course in law and economics has become a part of the standard curriculum in the leading law schools, and most of those law schools have at least one full-time economist as a member of the law faculty. Centers for the study of law and economics have been established at Stanford, Chicago, Columbia, George Mason, Miami, and other distinguished schools of law. A majority of the federal judiciary has received formal training in law and economics in short courses provided by several of these centers. Many of those appointed to the federal bench in the last several years have been academic lawyers who specialized in law and economics—to name only a few, Judges Richard Posner and Frank Easterbrook of the Seventh Circuit; Judge Steven Breyer of the First Circuit [now Supreme Court]; Judge Robert Bork of the D.C. Circuit; Judge Bernard Siegan of the Ninth Circuit; and Justice Antonin Scalia of the United States Supreme Court.”

**Course Objectives:**

This course will survey the basic applications of microeconomic principles to the common law fields of property, torts, contracts, and criminal law. We will also cover the additional topics of antitrust law and intellectual property law.

This course will provide students the ability to do the following:

1. Read and understand a case opinion;
2. Engage in a real-world application of economic theory;
3. Concretely evaluate the credibility of the basic economic assumptions;
4. Better understand the many sides of important legal controversies; and
5. Obtain an idea of what economists do in private practice.

### **Required Books:**

The textbook, *Law and Economics*, 5th ed., Robert Cooter & Thomas Ulen (“C&U”), can be downloaded for free as an open textbook in the course “Start Here” page or in each course module. Other articles and cases will be linked in the corresponding modules/discussion boards.

### **Teaching and Learning Methods:**

This will be a traditional reading and lecture course. My lectures, consisting of a .pdf document and video will be available in each module. In addition, we will encourage active debate using the discussion tool in Canvas. Many topics are highly controversial. You will be encouraged to speak your mind in this class without any fear of your opinions impacting your grade.

### **Course Requirements:**

#### **Discussions:**

The discussion questions are designed to help deepen your understanding of a week’s topic. Readings for discussions will be posted with the question in the discussion tool. Please give a substantive response to the question and create a dialogue with your peers. The way the discussion works is that you must create an initial post before you will be able to see any other posts. You are required to post to two other students, but don’t limit yourself to that. Your first post is due on **Wednesday at 11:59 p.m.** of each week. Please reply to two other posts by **Saturday at 11:59 p.m.** Feel free to comment on as many as you would like. The discussion will close on **Saturday at 11:59 p.m.** Original posts are worth 2 points (but you can lose points for lack of effort), and two replies is worth 1 point. There are no make ups if you miss the deadline.

#### **Midterm/Final:**

You will receive study questions from which I will draw the midterm questions and the final exam questions. The Midterm and Final will be take home exams. You will have a week to complete each exam. The purpose of the study questions is to give you a chance to ask questions. I will not read an exam answer, but I will answer specific questions. Once the exam period starts I can’t answer any substantive questions

#### **Grading:**

There are 100 possible points in this class. Your course grade will consist of discussions worth 30%, midterm exam worth 35%, and a final exam worth 35%.

**Communication:**

I will communicate through announcements. I will also plan to monitor the course discussions and occasionally add to the conversation. I will also be available by the Canvas inbox or by email ([glick@economics.utah.edu](mailto:glick@economics.utah.edu)). You may also schedule a telephone appointment.

**Required Technology:**

Basic technology for accessing the Internet is needed for this course. You are responsible for making sure your computer is up to date so that Canvas functions properly. Do not wait until the last minute for assignment submissions. If you need technical assistance, contact Teaching & Learning Technologies by email ([classhelp@utah.edu](mailto:classhelp@utah.edu)) or call 801-581-6112. Their hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **Course Schedule:**

Consult the modular units in Canvas for week by week detail of lectures, readings and discussions.

### **Policies:**

The Economics Department's policy toward unscholastic behavior is as follows: "Unscholastic behavior (e.g., excessive absences, plagiarism, disruptive behavior) may lead to expulsion from and to failure of the class."

### **Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

([www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/](http://www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/))

### **Wellness Statement**

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness – [www.wellness.utah.edu](http://www.wellness.utah.edu); 801-581-7776.