Course Syllabus

ECP3451: Law and Economics; Section RVC

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- Phone: 305-348-3893
- Office Hours: By Appointment
- Website: [http://faculty.fiu.edu/~bullj](http://faculty.fiu.edu/~bullj)
- Additional Notes: See Course Communication

Course Time Zone | Eastern Standard Time (EST). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

Course Description and Purpose

This course will focus on using economic reasoning to understand the law. Conceptual and fundamental understanding will be emphasized. Success in this course will require the development of your intuition and mathematical problem solving skills. A strong understanding of mathematical concepts will be very useful.

Although homework will not be graded, it is the best practice for the quizzes. I strongly encourage you to do many problems in order to understand the abstract concepts that we will cover.
Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- use economic concepts such as efficiency and equilibrium to understand the law.
- explain how the legal system influences people's behavior by shaping the incentives they face.
- analyze standard rules of law in property, tort, contract, and criminal, as well as legal procedure.

Major and Curriculum Targeted Objectives

This course will use concepts such as efficiency, optimization, equilibrium, Nash equilibrium, backward induction, and subgame perfection to understand the law. This includes the following concepts in each general area or module:

- Property: commons problems, externalities, Coase theorem, investment, and hold up
- Torts: due care, negligence, contributory negligence
- Contract: verifiability, external enforcement, standard breach remedies, efficient breach
- Procedure: evidence, burden of proof, systems of fact finding, settlement
- Criminal law: incentives in crime and punishment, enforcement probability and cost, fines and imprisonment

Teaching Methodology

The course will be taught using recorded lectures. I will suggest some practice problems, which will be good practice for the quizzes. These will not be graded, but are the best practice for the quizzes. Additionally, for modules 2 to 6, there will be a graded homework assignment due the Monday before the quiz for that module is due. There will be a quiz each week after the first week.

Important Information

Policies

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- Policies
- Netiquette

https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/syllabus
• Technical Requirements and Skills
• Accessibility and Accommodation
• Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
• Academic Misconduct Statement

Course Prerequisites

This course has prerequisites of ECO2013 and ECO2023, or equivalent. Review the Course Catalog (http://onlineapps.fiu.edu/coursecatalog/) webpage for prerequisites information.

Textbook and Course Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Textbook Table</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Law and Economics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooter and Ulen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISBN-10: 0132540657</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore (http://fiu.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=21551&catalogId=10001). The authors have posted a PDF of the text at Berkeley Law’s Scholarship Repository (http://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/books/2/). "for everyone freely to read or use as a textbook." We will not follow the text exactly, but it is a great resource and is available at no cost.

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

• Review the how to get started information located in the course content
• Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
• Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Canvas
• **Interact** online with instructor/s and peers
• **Review** and follow the course calendar
• Log in to the course 3 times per week
• Respond to discussion boards within 2 days
• Respond to messages within 2 days
• Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline

**The instructor will:**

• Log in to the course 3 times per week
• Respond to discussion boards within 2 days
• Respond to messages within 2 days
• Grade assignments within 7 days of the assignment deadline

**Course Communication**

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the Canvas Conversations Tutorial (https://vimeo.com/canvaslms/212en) or Canvas Guide (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

**Discussion Forums**

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

• Posting in the discussion forums (other than introducing yourself during the first week) is not a requirement for the course.
• These are to be used to interact with your classmates and the professor or teaching assistants in a way that is constructive and helps you to better understand the material.

**Quizzes**

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the Practice Quiz from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. For more information, please review the important information about quizzes page.
• There will be a quiz (5 total) each week starting the second week of the term.
• Each quiz will be available from Sunday, 12:00 am to Saturday, 11:59 pm for the week it is due.
• Each quiz will be 60 minutes in duration and will consist of four (4) short answer problem type questions.
• Within the week following the due date of the quiz, we will let you know your total score and score for each of the four (4) questions.

Assignments
• In addition to the quizzes, there is one graded homework assignment for each module, starting with module 2. These are due earlier than the quizzes to encourage you to spend time on the material prior to taking the quiz. However, it is acceptable to take the quiz for a module at the same time as or earlier than submitting the homework.
• Further, during the first module, you are asked to introduce yourself in the course discussion board and reply to two of your classmates who have introduced themselves.
• Some practice questions will be given. These will not be graded, but will be helpful for preparing for the quizzes.

Zoom Video Conference
Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities.

Zoom Test Meeting Room  (https://zoom.us/test)
Use this link to access the Zoom Test Meeting Room. This meeting room is available to test out the software before joining an actual session.

Reference the provided links to access Zoom student tutorials to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.

- Download Zoom  (https://zoom.us/support/download).
- Login to Zoom through Desktop Application  (https://fiu.service-now.com/sp?id=kb_article&sys_id=4483f98adbd37484968f9b9af9619a5)
- Invite others to join meeting.  (https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362183)
- Chat (Professors) - Students look at attendees section for instructions
Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Weight of Each</th>
<th>Total Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forum - Introduction and Responses</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>N/A</strong></td>
<td><strong>N/A</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Letter Grade Distribution Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range%</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range%</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 or above</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 - 86</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>71 - 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91 - 92</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81 - 83</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 90</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 80</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>61 or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Calendar

https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/syllabus
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;August 26 - August 31</td>
<td>Supports Learning Objectives: efficiency and equilibrium, law and incentives.&lt;br&gt;1. Introduce Yourself to the course&lt;br&gt;2. Complete Practice Quiz&lt;br&gt;3. Watch relevant lectures in Adobe Connect&lt;br&gt;4. Read Chapters 1, 2, and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;September 1 - September 21</td>
<td>Supports Learning Objectives: efficiency and equilibrium, law and incentives, property.&lt;br&gt;1. Watch relevant lectures in Adobe Connect&lt;br&gt;2. Read Chapters 4 and 5&lt;br&gt;3. Do relevant practice problems&lt;br&gt;4. Homework 1 – <strong>due by September 16</strong>&lt;br&gt;5. Take Quiz 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;September 22 - October 12</td>
<td>Supports Learning Objectives: efficiency and equilibrium, law and incentives, torts.&lt;br&gt;1. Watch relevant lectures in Adobe Connect&lt;br&gt;2. Read Chapters 6 and 7&lt;br&gt;3. Homework 2 – <strong>due by October 7</strong>&lt;br&gt;4. Do relevant practice problems&lt;br&gt;5. Take Quiz 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 4</strong>&lt;br&gt;October 13 - November 2</td>
<td>Supports Learning Objectives: efficiency and equilibrium, law and incentives, contract.&lt;br&gt;1. Watch relevant lectures in Adobe Connect&lt;br&gt;2. Read Chapters 8 and 9&lt;br&gt;3. Do relevant practice problem&lt;br&gt;4. Homework 3 – <strong>due by October 28</strong>&lt;br&gt;5. Take Quiz 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 5</strong></td>
<td>Supports Learning Objectives: efficiency and equilibrium, law and incentives, procedure.&lt;br&gt;1. Watch relevant lectures in Adobe Connect&lt;br&gt;2. Read Chapters 10 and 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### November 3 - November 23

- 3. Do relevant practice problem
- 4. Homework 4 – **due by November 18**
- 5. Take Quiz 4

### Module 6
#### November 24 - December 14

- Supports Learning Objectives: efficiency and equilibrium, law and incentives, criminal law.
- 1. Watch relevant lectures in Adobe Connect
- 2. Read Chapters 12 and 13
- 3. Do relevant practice problem
- 4. Homework 5 – **due by December 9**
- 5. Take Quiz 5

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### Course Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat Aug 31, 2019</td>
<td><img src="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/560515" alt="Introduce Yourself" /></td>
<td>11:59pm</td>
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<td>Mon Sep 16, 2019</td>
<td><img src="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/546695" alt="Homework 1" /></td>
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<td>Sat Sep 21, 2019</td>
<td><img src="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/516294" alt="Quiz 1" /></td>
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<td>Mon Oct 7, 2019</td>
<td><img src="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/551350" alt="Homework 2" /></td>
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<td>Sat Oct 12, 2019</td>
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<td>Mon Oct 28, 2019</td>
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<td>Sat Nov 2, 2019</td>
<td><img src="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/516293" alt="Quiz 3" /></td>
<td>11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Due Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
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</table>
| Mon Nov 18, 2019  | Homework 4  
[https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/553856](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/553856) | 11:59pm      |
| Sat Nov 23, 2019  | Quiz 4  
[https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/516290](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/516290) | 11:59pm      |
| Mon Dec 9, 2019   | Homework 5  
[https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/555004](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/555004) | 11:59pm      |
| Sat Dec 14, 2019  | Quiz 5  
[https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/516292](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/46091/assignments/516292) | 11:59pm      |