

Law and Economics
ECON 3231/5231
(formerly 920:128(g))
Spring 2012

Dr. Lisa K. Jepsen
Office: CBB 208
Phone: 273-2592
Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Th 1:30-3:30 p.m.
and by appointment

Class time: MWF 11-11:50 p.m.
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Textbook: *Law and Economics* by Robert Cooter and Thomas Ulen. Pearson (formerly Addison-Wesley) Publishers. Fifth Edition, 2008. Also see accompanying website: wps.aw.com/aw_cooterulen_lawecon_6.

Pre-requisites: 920:053 and 920:054

Course description: (from 2010-12 catalog) *Analysis of the influence of legal rules and institutions on the economic behaviors of individuals. Examination of the principles of economics as they relate to private and public law, with special emphasis on economic efficiency and equity. Applications from civil procedure, criminal, contract, property, and tort law.*

Attendance: You are expected to attend class every time. This class relies on a combination lecture/presentation and discussion. Please read the assigned chapter(s) and/or supplemental material prior to the class period in which we will discuss the material. You will enjoy the class more if you are prepared for discussions. I hope that everyone will participate in class discussions throughout the semester. I encourage volunteers; I may call on students during class. You may receive supplemental reading assignments as the semester progresses. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from another student. Please contact me as soon as possible to receive any assignments and/or announcements.

Evaluation: The course material can be divided into four sections: 1) property, 2) contracts, 3) torts, and 4) criminal and civil procedure. The four in-class exams correspond to these sections. Exams are entirely essay/short answer. Please note that the exams cover all material presented in the applicable sections, including the assigned chapters from your textbook, any supplemental reading assignments, and any material presented by guest lecturers. Each exam is worth 40 points.

In addition to the in-class exams, there will be one writing assignment due during the semester. The format for this assignment is described in a separate handout. The assignment is worth a total of 20 points. Thus, there are 180 total points possible in the class.

Your grade in the class will be based on the percentage of these 180 points that you earn, as shown on the scale listed below. Please note that because UNI offers “plus/minus” grading, it is very possible to miss the next highest grade by only a few points (even one!). This will happen, so be aware of this possibility. On the positive side, the use of “plus/minus” grading softens the blow of missing the next highest grade by a few points.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Minimum Points</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A	167	93
A-	162	90
B+	156	87
B	149	83
B-	144	80
C+	138	77
C	131	73
C-	126	70
D+	120	67
D	113	63
D-	108	60
F	<108	<60

ADA Policy: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) provides protection from illegal discrimination for qualified individuals with disabilities. Student requesting instructional accommodations due to disabilities must arrange for such accommodation through the Office of Disability Services through the UNI Counseling Center. The Center is located at: 103 Student Health Center, and the phone number is 273-2676.

Course Repeat Policy: The College of Business Administration (CBA) course repeat policy does not apply because this class is not offered in consecutive semesters.

Academic Learning Center: UNI’s Academic Learning Center provides free assistance with writing, math, reading, and learning strategies. The Center is located at 008 ITTC. You may obtain more information by calling 273-2361 or visiting <http://www.uni.edu/unialc/>.

Cheating: Cheating on tests, papers, or other assignments, including but not limited to the passing of answers, copying, cheat sheets for exams, and **plagiarism on written assignments**, will be dealt with harshly. Punishment will include course failure, UNI expulsion if possible, and execution where appropriate (see Prof. Abraham, department head, for details on methods of execution).

Supplemental Readings:

Here is a tentative list of the cases that will be assigned for each topic. You can find these cases through UNI's web access to LexisNexis. From UNI's Rod Library home page, select "Databases A-Z." Select "L" to find and select "LexisNexis Academic." Look at the middle column with the heading "Look up a Legal Case." Enter the case number in the "By Citation" field. (Note there is one space after the first set of numbers and one space before the last set of numbers.) Click on the blue "Go" button.

Before you print a large case, please note that the page numbers listed below may vary based on the default font, so double-check the content. You may prefer to copy the text into a word processing file before printing.

Property:

Fountainbleau Hotel Corp. v. Forty-Five Twenty-Five, Inc. 114 So.2d 357

John Moore v. The Regents of the University of California 793 P.2d 479

Once you select the case from the two options, look for a "Case in Brief" link on the left side immediately below "Disposition." This should bring up a pdf file. Print pages 2-7 and 18-25.

Contracts:

In re Baby M 109 N.J. 396

Read section I, pages 1-10.

Skim section II, pages 11-20; stop before "termination."

Alaska Packers' Association v. Domenico 112 F. 554

Torts:

Marie E. Kelly v. Donald C. Gwinnell and Paragon Corp. 96 N.J. 538

We will skip some sections.

John D. Melia v. Ford Motor Company 534 F.2d 795

Criminal:

Tate v. Short 401 U.S. 395

State v. Christy Pontiac-GMC, Inc. 354 N.W.2d 17

Order of Topics/Readings:

Exam 1:

Property Law

Chapters 4 and 5

Cases: Fountainbleau Hotel and Moore v. UC Regents

Exam 2:

Contract Law

Chapters 6 and 7

Cases: Baby M and Alaska Packers

Exam 3:

Tort Law

Chapters 8 and 9

Cases: Kelly v. Gwinnell and Melia v. Ford

Exam 4:

Criminal and Civil Procedure Law

Chapters 11, 12, and 10

Cases: Tate v. Short and Christy Pontiac

Exam 4 is during the final exam period, Tuesday May 1, at 10 a.m.

The rough draft of paper is due Friday, April 13, 2012, at 3 p.m.

The final draft of paper is due Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at 3 p.m.

Students **must** turn in their rough draft with their final draft.

Reminders:

Each exam is worth 40 points.

The final exam is not cumulative.

Students are responsible for the material in Chapters 1-3. We will discuss the material throughout the semester as it arises in the context of the other chapters.

Exams are based on the assigned chapters PLUS any additional assigned readings and/or other material included in this section of the class.