

ECON3630 Law and Economics
2021 Spring
Mon 1430-1615 and Wed 1330-1415 (Online for now)

Teacher: Travis Ng (TravisNg@cuhk.edu.hk)

Office hours: Monday 16:15-17:00 @ ELB915

Class website: <http://teacher.econ.cuhk.edu.hk/~travisng/econ3630>

TA: Chris Lu

1. Course description:

Law and economics use economic theories and empirical tools to understand law. Scholars in the field study the economic consequences of law and seek to identify the kinds of legal rules that would maximize economic efficiency. The course surveys a selected set of law and economics topics including tort, contract, property, crime, corporate, antitrust, etc. Students should take ECON2011 before taking this course.

2. Learning outcomes:

a) See economics as an useful analytical tool of some legal issues, b) deepen the understanding of laws and legal doctrines, and c) See different pathways to law-making.

3. Course components (Learning activities)

I expect a lot of discussion among you and your classmates, preferably on topics that you like with the help of some concepts we introduce in class. This, however, is not something I can monitor perfectly. I therefore complement this with assignments and in-class discussions aiming at stimulating your interactions. I would also expect you to read the textbook, and to attend all the lectures. Attending the exam is a must to pass the course.

4. Assessment

2 assignments [30% each], class discussions 20%, & an exam 20%

5. Readings:

I follow the main textbook, supplemented with my own slides and assigned readings, which complement but never entirely substitute my lectures. I expect you to attend the lectures.

Main: Friedman, David D. 2000. Law's Order. Princeton University Press.

Supplementary: Cooter, Robert D. and Ulen, Thomas. 2011. Law and Economics, 6th edition. Addison-Wesley.

6. Feedback for evaluation:

Office hour visits, emails, and chats before the class begins and after the class ends and during the breaks.

7. University-wide Policy on Academic Honesty

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed [declaration](#) that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

Assignments make up 60% of your final grade. They are due on the corresponding deadlines. I will NOT accept late assignments. You have to submit them with your signature on the academic honesty declaration:

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_\(2013-14\)/p10.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p10.htm)

Anyone working on the assignment without his/her own declaration form gets zero in the assignment.

8. Appeals

If you appeal to re-grade your assignment, submit the arguments to me in written format. I will re-grade not only the parts that you have appealed, but also the other parts that you have not. This implies that it is possible for you to get a lower overall grade. If you would like to appeal for your final exam grade, you have to initiate the process through the procedures set up by the CUHK.

9. Course Structure

| Week | Date | Lecture | Chapter |
|------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Jan 11 & 13 | Introduction of law and economics | 1, Intermezzo |
| 2 | Jan 18 & 20 | Efficiency as a yardstick | 2 |
| 3 | Jan 25 & 27 | Externalities I | 3,4 |
| 4 | Feb 1 & 3 | Externalities II | 4,5 |
| 5 | Feb 8 & 10 | Insurance and ex ante vs ex post | 6,7 |
| 6 | Feb 15 & 17 | HOLIDAY (NO CLASS) | |
| 7 | Feb 22 & 24 | Property I | 10 |
| 8 | Mar 1 & 3 | Property II | 10,11 |
| 9 | Mar 8 & 10 | Contract | 12 |
| 10 | Mar 15 & 17 | Tort | 14 |
| 11 | Mar 22 & 24 | Crime | 15 |
| 12 | Mar 29 & 31 | HOLIDAY (NO CLASS) | |
| 13 | Apr 5 & 7 | HOLIDAY (NO CLASS) | |
| 14 | Apr 12 & 14 | Antitrust | 16 |
| 15 | Apr 19 & 21 | Competing by law-making | TBA |

10. The language policy

It is our program's policy that all teachers should adhere to English as the only language used for teaching. This applies to students' class participation, assignments, presentations, tests, and exams.

11. Grade Descriptors

| | |
|-----|--|
| A: | <u>Outstanding</u> performance on all learning outcomes. |
| A-: | <u>Generally outstanding</u> performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes. |
| B: | <u>Substantial</u> performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensate for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance. |
| C: | <u>Satisfactory</u> performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses. |
| D: | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements. |
| F: | <u>Very unsatisfactory</u> performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements. |