湖北工業大學
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Law and Economics
Course Code	ECON 3420
Semester	Spring 2027
Course Length	4 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	ECON 2211 Intermediate Microeconomics

Course Description:

The field of Law and Economics applies microeconomic theory to analyze laws, legal institutions, and legal decision-making. This course explores the economic rationale behind legal rules and examines their implications for efficiency, fairness, and societal welfare. Topics include property rights, contract law, tort law, litigation, crime and deterrence, and regulatory frameworks. The course will emphasize both theoretical perspectives and real-world legal cases to illustrate key concepts.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** – Students will engage in analytical thinking, demonstrating the ability to critically evaluate, synthesize, and apply knowledge to complex problems, and construct well-reasoned solutions and arguments.
- **Independent Research and Inquiry** – Students will conduct independent research, utilizing academic resources to explore relevant topics, formulating research questions, analyzing data, and presenting findings in a coherent, scholarly manner.
- **Problem-Solving and Application** – Students will apply theoretical concepts and methodologies learned in the course to real-world problems, demonstrating the ability to develop practical solutions informed by academic inquiry.
- **Global and Cultural Awareness** – Students will gain awareness of the global and cultural contexts relevant to the course, appreciating diverse perspectives and considering the implications of their studies in a broader, international context.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- understand and apply economic principles to legal issues and institutions;

- analyze the economic efficiency and fairness of legal rules;
- evaluate the role of incentives, externalities, and market failures in legal decision-making;
- compare different legal frameworks and their impact on economic outcomes;
- develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills in the context of law and economics.

Textbooks/Supplies/Materials/Equipment/ Technology or Technical Requirements:
Robert B. Cooter & Thomas Ulen, *Law and Economics* (Digital or Print 6th ed. 2016). Pearson.
Additional readings and case studies will be provided.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation
Active engagement in class discussions and case analyses is expected. Participation will be evaluated based on the quality of contributions and involvement in group activities.

Assignments
There will be three written assignments, each worth 10%. These will require students to apply economic reasoning to legal problems, analyze case studies, and support arguments with economic models. Late submissions will incur a penalty of 10% per day.

Midterm Exam
A closed-book midterm exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, short answers, and problem-solving exercises covering the material from the first half of the course.

Research Paper
Students will be required to submit a research paper analyzing a legal issue from an economic perspective. The topic must be pre-approved by the instructor. The paper should be approximately 5-7 pages and will be due at the end of the semester.

Final Exam
The final exam will be cumulative and will assess students' ability to integrate economic analysis with legal principles. It will include both theoretical and applied questions.

Assessments: Activity	**Percent Contribution**
Class Participation	10%
Assignments	30%
Midterm Exam	20%
Research Paper	15%
Final Exam	25%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Grade	Percentage of available points
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	64-69
D-	60-63
F	0-59

Course Schedule:
The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.

ECON 3420 Schedule		
Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Introduction to Law and Economics The Economic Approach to Law	Chapter 1
L2	Efficiency vs. Fairness in Legal Frameworks Key Concepts: Rational Choice, Externalities, Incentives	Chapter 2
L3	Property Law and Economic Foundations	Chapter 4
L4	Property Rights and Resource Allocation The Coase Theorem	Chapters 4-5
L5	Intellectual Property and Innovation Patents, Copyrights, and Trademarks	Chapter 5
L6	Incentives for Innovation Balancing Monopoly Power and Consumer Welfare	Chapter 5
L7	Public Goods and Externalities	Chapter 2
L8	Contract Law and Economics The Role of Contracts in Economic Exchange **Assignment 1 due**	Chapters 8-9
L9	Contract Enforcement and Efficiency	Chapters 8-9
L10	Breach of Contract and Remedies	Chapters 8-9
L11	Tort Law and Liability Rules	Chapters 6-7
L12	Economic Analysis of Accidents and Negligence Strict Liability vs. Negligence Rules	Chapters 6-7
L13	The Role of Insurance in Tort Law	Chapters 6-7
L14	**Midterm Exam**	Chapters 1-9
L15	Litigation and Legal Process The Decision to Sue and Settlement Bargaining **Assignment 2 due**	Chapters 10-11
L16	The Costs of Litigation and Efficiency	Chapters 10-11
L17	The Role of Judges and Juries in Legal Decision-Making	Chapter 11
L18	Regulatory Frameworks vs. Legal Liability	Chapter 11
L19	Crime, Punishment, and Regulatory Law The Economic Rationale of Criminal Law	Chapters 12-13
L20	Deterrence and Punishment	Chapters 12-13
L21	Antitrust and Competition Law	Chapter 2

	Market Power and Monopoly Regulation	
L22	Collusion and Cartels	Chapter 2
L23	The Role of Government in Market Competition	Chapter 2
	Assignment 3 due	
L24	Emerging Topics in Law and Economics	Chapter 13
	The Role of Big Data and Privacy Regulations	
	Environmental Law and Economic Incentives	
	Future Directions in Law and Economics	
	Research Paper Submission	
L25	Course Wrap-Up and Review	Chapters 1-13
	Final Exam	

Accommodation Statement:

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:

Attendance and Expectations

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you

believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work
The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs, and Disabilities
Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.