Law and Economics
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Objective:
Law and Economics offers a new perspective on Law, and is having a major impact on the teaching of both law and economics. The primary objective of this course is to apply economic thinking to the law, with the intent of achieving efficient use of our scarce resources. For a particular law, we consider: What is the law intended to achieve? What effect does it actually have? How might it be improved to make better use of scarce resources? The emphasis will be on property, contract, tort (accident), and criminal law. In addition to the text and readings, there will be additional materials, such as newspaper, journal, and Internet articles.

Text:
David Friedman, Law's Order, Princeton University Press, 2000 (available in paperback). Text Web Site: http://www.daviddfriedman.com/laws_order/ has the text on-line for free (!), as well as chapter-specific information including on-line footnotes, links to selected legal cases, commentary on selected text, and practice questions with answers provided. You can find other materials of possible interest at http://www.daviddfriedman.com/.

Assignments and Grading:
ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING: In this course you will apply economic methods to independently and rigorously analyze legal questions of increasing complexity primarily related to property, contracts, torts, and crime. Expect to read each chapter three times: once for a roadmap, a second time for content, and a third time for comprehension. I strongly recommend a first reading before we discuss the topic in class.

Exams will be Exams will be T/F, short answer, short essay, and multiple choice. There will be 3 in-course exams, plus a fourth exam during the final exam period. Each of the in-course exams counts 25%. There will be quizzes and homework (announced or unannounced, in-class or take-home), counting the remaining 25% of your grade. I will drop your lowest quiz/HW grade (e.g. If there are 12 grades, I will count the best 11). For those who miss no exams, the Final Exam (Exam IV) is optional. You may take it to replace your lowest in-course exam grade or your quiz/homework average. In case of close calls (e.g. 89.9% average), you must take the Final to earn the higher grade.

Because law requires good speaking skills, active participation is expected. It will not be counted explicitly, but will help you implicitly by allowing you to test out your thinking before exams. You must do the reading in advance of class to be prepared.

Grades will be determined as follows:
90%+ = A, 80%+ = B, 70%+ = C, 60%+ = D, <60% = F
Schedule

**Weeks 1-2 (8/20, 8/22, 8/27): An Introduction to Law and Economics**
Friedman, Introduction, Chapters 1, 2

**Weeks 2-4 (8/29, 9/3, 9/10, and 9/12): The Coase Theorem**
(Labor Day M 9/2), No class Th 9/5 (Rosh Hashonah)
Friedman, Chapters 3, 4, 5

**Week 5 (9/17, 9/19): Review and Exam I**
9/15: Catch Up and Review
9/20: Exam # 1 Chapters 1-5 (including Introduction)

**Weeks 6-7 (9/24, 9/26, 10/1, 10/3): Risk and Insurance, Ex Ante vs. Ex Post, Game Theory, Value of Life**
Friedman, Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9

**Week 8-9 (10/10, 10/15): Review and Exam 2**
10/7-8: Fall Break
10/10: Catch Up and Review
10/15: Exam # 2 Chapters 6-9

**Weeks 9-10 (10/17, 10/22, 10/24): Property**
Friedman, Intermezzo, Chapters 10, 11

**Weeks 11-12 (10/29, 10/31, 11/5): Contracts**
10/28 (Mon.) 11:59 pm: Last day to drop course with grade of W.
Friedman, Chapters 12, 13

**Weeks 12-13 (11/7, 11/12, 11/14): Torts and Crimes**
Friedman, Chapters 14, 15, 18
Week 14 (11/19, 11/21): Crime/Tort Puzzle

Weeks 15-16 (11/26, 12/3): Is the Common Law Efficient? And Epilogue

Friedman, Chapter 19, Epilogue

Thanksgiving 11/27-12/1

12/5 Reading Day

Final Exam (T 12/10) 11 AM-1:30 PM
Chapters 14, 15, 18, 19, Epilogue.

The Belk College of Business Diversity Statement

The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity governs the responsibility of students to maintain integrity in academic work, defines violations of the standards, describes procedures for handling alleged violations of the standards, and lists applicable penalties. The following conduct is prohibited in that Code as violating those standards:

A. Cheating. Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices in any academic exercise. This definition includes unauthorized communication of information during an academic exercise.

B. Fabrication and Falsification. Intentional and unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification is a matter of altering information, while fabrication is a matter of inventing or counterfeiting information for use in any academic exercise.

C. Multiple Submission. The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without authorization.

D. Plagiarism. Intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the ideas, information, etc., are common knowledge.

E. Abuse of Academic Materials. Intentionally or knowingly destroying, stealing, or making inaccessible library or other academic resource material.

F. Complicity in Academic Dishonesty. Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

A full explanation of these definitions, and a description of procedures used in cases where student violations are alleged, is found in the complete text of The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. This Code may be modified from time to time. Students are advised to contact the Office of the Dean of Students or go to www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html to ensure they consult the most recent edition.