

Contents
SYLLABUS
ECONOMICS FOR LAWYERS

SUMMER 2019
3 CREDIT HOURS

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PART 1: COURSE DETAILS

CONTACT INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR

Instructor: Henry Butler

FACILITATOR

Facilitator: Michael Reksulak

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: 703-993-8228

E-mail: mreksula@gmu.edu

Best way to contact:

Reply policy: I will try and respond to emails within 24 hours. If you do not receive a reply to your email within a reasonable period of time, please send it again. Sometimes email is captured by SPAM filter, is addressed incorrectly, or just simply does not get sent.

TECH SUPPORT

For technical support, please contact the Helpdesk at:

Phone: 800-472-8899

Email: support@lawstudentonline.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Economics for Lawyers will provide you with an overview of basic tools involved in microeconomic analysis (including game theory, and some basic financial and statistical concepts), and an application of these tools to various areas of the law, including property, contracts, tort, and antitrust. This course will prepare you to think critically about the economic implications of legal rules. The ability to draw on economic arguments to shape legal arguments will make you more effective advocates.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Understand core economic concepts, such as demand, supply, and market equilibrium.
- Understand the impact of policies like minimum wage laws, taxes, and occupational licensing on market outcomes.

- Think critically about market- and government-based solutions to policy issues.
- Apply economics to better understand doctrines in property, tort, contract, antitrust, and criminal law.
- Use economic analysis to better shape legal arguments and become a better advocate.

PART 2: MATERIALS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

READINGS

REQUIRED TEXT

Economic Analysis for Lawyers, Henry N. Butler, Christopher R. Drahozal, & Joanna Shepherd, Third Edition.

ISBN: 978-1-59460-997-8

LCCN: 2014943567

A PDF version of the textbook is available at no cost and posted under the “Course Resources” section of the course.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to meet basic technology requirements to successfully participate in this online course. Failure to meet these requirements may result in problems accessing the course materials. It is the student's responsibility to ensure all requirements are met prior to the start of the course.

- Access to the Internet is required. While any browser can be used, Firefox and Chrome are recommended.
- Access to D2L and Online Office Hours Tool (Zoom). for more details.
- You will need the capability to speak and hear so you can watch videos and participate in the live online office hours. Make sure that the device(s) you plan to use has(ve) a microphone and speakers or that you have access to a headset. A webcam is optional but not required.
- Adobe Reader
- Flash Player
- QuickTime, RealPlayer, or Windows Media Player
- Microsoft Office, 2010 or later

PART 3: ACCESSING THE COURSE

Please note that this course is setup to run in the Eastern Time zone. Check your syllabus for all assignments deadlines. Modules close on Sundays at 11:59 PM ET.

Eastern	Central	Mountain	Pacific
11:59 PM	10:59 PM	9:59 PM	8:59 PM

Daylight Saving Time (DST): Daylight Saving Time may impact when your assignments are due.

As a student in a distance education course, it is your responsibility to learn and observe the time deadlines for assignments. Late work will not be accepted due to time zone differences.

COURSE SITE (D2L)

The course will be taught entirely online in an asynchronous environment using the Learning Management System (LMS) – Desire2Learn (D2L).

The course is designed to give students a dynamic online learning experience. Students will receive notice of a student orientation which will familiarize them with the basics of navigating the LMS platform. Students will also receive their log in information (username and password) via email.

To access the course:

1. Go to <https://mycourses.lawonline.me>.
2. To login, enter the username and password provided via email.
3. Locate and click on the course name under *My Courses*. Or, use the mini-bar at the top of the page. The **minibar** is always present on the top of your screen. Here you can access your courses, notifications, and personal settings from any course, on any screen. To “pin” a course so that you have easy access to it, click the gray pin icon. Once the course is pinned, the pin icon will turn red.



NOTE: If you have trouble logging in, please contact the Helpdesk at 800-472-8899 or via email support@lawstudentonline.com

OFFICE HOURS VIA ZOOM

Online office hours will be available through Zoom Meetings. Students will have the opportunity to speak with the instructor during these office hours. Students can also choose to share their web cam or share documents with the instructor via the online rooms.

PART 4: COURSE STRUCTURE

OVERVIEW

This course will consist of readings, lecture videos, discussions, and two exams—a midterm and a final. Please review the Course Schedule for due dates. This course is organized into 11 learning modules, which are accessible via the Course Menu.

CONTENT DELIVERY

COURSE LECTURES

There will be 60-75 minutes of course lecture videos to watch per module. These videos will be linked to from the course site.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION BOARD

The Discussion Boards are related to chapter readings and lectures. Upon completion or near completion of the assigned readings and lectures, you are expected to engage in an ongoing discussion with your learning community peers. There will be multiple Discussion Board questions per module. You should expect to spend at least an hour in the Discussion Board for each question. You will be asked to respond to the question and then respond to at least one of your classmates posts for each question. Contributions to the Discussion Board will not be graded, but will be assessed to assure that your post is (1) timely; and (2) reflects effort and knowledge. Successful participation in each Discussion Board is worth 1 point. Discussion Boards participation will count for 10% of your final grade. So, for example, if you successfully participated in 10/10 Discussion Boards throughout the course, 30% of your final grade will be 30.

EXAMINATIONS

There are two examinations in this class: Midterm and a Final. The Midterm Examination is worth 30% of your final course grade and will cover all lectures and material assigned through Module 6 (Market Structure and Antitrust). The Final Examination is worth 40% of your grade and will be cumulative, but with a greater emphasis placed on material and lectures after the Midterm Examination (Modules 7-10). All Examinations for this class will be multiple choice.

The exams will be open-book. You may use the textbook and any notes you have created in the course. You may not use notes others have created. Exams submitted outside the permitted time frame without a pre-approved extension will not be accepted and will receive a score of 0.

PART 5: STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

MANAGING YOUR STUDIES

The following attributes will greatly contribute to your success in this course.

- *Be self-motivated.* You should be able to manage and direct your own learning environment and methods to fulfill course requirements and achieve individual academic success.
- *Be an independent learner.* Successful online students are self-starters. They work well with the flexibility that the 24/7 any time--any place format provides. You should be able to learn on your own and at an accelerated pace without direct supervision.
- *Have a minimum level of computer literacy.* Although it is not essential to have advanced computer skills, you should possess a working knowledge of email, the Internet, as well as basic keyboarding skills.
- *Manage your time well.* You must be able to organize and plan your own best "time to learn." There is no one best time for everyone, but the key to success is to make the time to learn.
- *Acquire effective communication skills.* You must use email and discussions to communicate with your peers and me. The ability to read and to write clearly to communicate ideas and assignments is essential. Also, sharing reflections - of your own work as well as your classmates' - is a crucial component of a successful experience. This method provides you with rapid feedback as well to inform me of any concerns or problems that you may be experiencing.
- *Be personally committed to successfully completing this online course.* Because of the flexibility in scheduling in this course, you must have a strong desire to learn and acquire knowledge and skills via online courses. Making a commitment to learn in this manner is a very personal decision and requires a strong desire to perform to achieve academic success.

RESPECTING THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

Netiquette consists of the rules and guidelines for acceptable behavior in electronic communication. Remember, while working in an online course you are in an academic setting and should conduct yourself accordingly.

All students are expected to follow netiquette guidelines as outlined below:

- You are not text messaging friends. This means text message acronyms (such as LOL, IMHO, BCNU, etc.) are not acceptable. Express yourself with proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

- Out of respect for your fellow coursemates' and instructor's time, keep your communications as clear, straightforward, and concise as possible.
- Use appropriate mixed case text; avoid using all lowercase or all uppercase text (SHOUTING).
- You are your words. Your communication in an online course represents you. Always review and edit your communication before submitting.
- Give respect to your coursemates. Be courteous, respectful of other opinions, sensitive to diversity, and polite.
- Respect other people's privacy. Do not share other individual's personal information (i.e., e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc.) without permission.
- It's okay to disagree with someone's opinion or constructively criticize an idea. It is never okay to personally attack another student. Debate the idea; do not attack the person.
- Free speech is not an absolute right in an online course.
- Obey copyright laws and cite others' work appropriately

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

- Students are expected to keep up with the required readings, to watch the required recordings, and to participate in discussion boards.
- Readings are designed to reinforce lectures and provide examples of concepts discussed in the lectures.
- Students should log on at least every other day to check for announcements.
- Students are expected to independently complete all activities, assignments, and exams.

PART 6: GRADES AND GRADING POLICIES

GRADED COURSE ACTIVITIES

The following formula will be used to calculate your final grade:

Points	Description
30%	Discussion Boards
30%	Midterm Examination
40%	Final Examination

GRADING SCALE

Your grade will conform to your school's grading policy as to whether +s and -s is given to any applicable grading curve.

GRADING POLICIES

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the objectives of the course and instructional units. Each week you will work on various combinations of Discussion Board Questions and Readings. You will also take a Midterm Examination and a Cumulative Final Examination.

- Students are expected to post to discussion boards on time. Assignments submitted within 24 hours of the deadline will be penalized 30%. No assignments will be accepted 24 hours beyond the deadline.
- Deadlines will be extended only when granted BEFORE the assignment is due.
- Deductions will occur when directions are not followed.
- Exams submitted late (but within 30 minutes of the deadline) will be assessed a penalty of a letter grade. Exams submitted more than 30 minutes late will not be accepted.
- Work may be made up only when an extension was granted before the deadline.
- There is no provision in this course for “extra credit”.
- Feedback on assignments will be given no later than one week after the assignment is submitted.
- Exams can be reviewed upon appointment.

PART 7: OTHER COURSE POLICIES

See school policies on matters of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct. Matters involving integrity or Honor Code issues will be transmitted to school administration.

ATTENDANCE

This course is delivered asynchronously to accommodate students’ other life obligations. Students must access each lecture for an appropriate amount of time, participate substantively in the Case Problem Assignments, and complete the Final Exam by set due dates. Students’ attendance responsibilities follow school policy. Any questions will be referred to school’s administration.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Contact school about requests for special accommodations and ask that they send granted accommodations to support@lawstudentonline.com

PART 8: COURSE TOPICS

The following is a list of topics which will be covered in the course. Please refer to the course schedule (a separate document) for details on topics, assignments, and due dates. Any change related to the course schedule will be communicated to the students through an announcement to all students or by modifying the course syllabus and notifying students of the modified syllabus.

Module	Topics of Study
1	The Economics Perspective
2	Demand, Supply, and Markets
3	Probability & Statistics
4	Game Theory
5	Risk
6	Market Structure & Antitrust
7	Property Rights & Externalities
8	Information & Transaction Costs
9	Economics of Crime and Punishment
10	Economics of Tort Law