**Economics 5380 / 6380**

**Law & Economics**

**Spring 2014**

**Profs. Cory Sinclair and Gregory Adams**

Class Hours: Monday 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Classroom: OSH 175

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: [csinclair@parsonsbehle.com](mailto:csinclair@parsonsbehle.com); [gadams@crai.com](mailto:gadams@crai.com)

Course Goals:

This course will survey the basic applications of microeconomic principles to the areas of property law, torts, contract law, and criminal law. We will also cover additional topics in the areas of antitrust, environmental law, family law, and employment law.

Required Text:

*Law & Economics*, 6th Ed. by Robert Cooter and Thomas Ulen (“C&U”)

Optional Text:

*Cases and Materials on Law and Economics*, David W. Barnes and Lynn A. Stout (“Casebook”). You do not need to purchase this text, but if you are (extremely) interested in this topic, this casebook collects the key legal cases in each area we will be discussing. I will hand out copies of specific cases that you will be required to read.

Course Requirements:

Your course grade will consist of a midterm exam and final exam, each worth 50% of the final grade. We will also consider extraordinary contributions to classroom discussions, but class participation is not something that can bring your grade down, only up. Economics 6380 does not have any additional requirements; however, 6380 students will be expected to provide greater depth and analysis on exams. Also, 6380 students will be evaluated only against other 6380 students.

This will be a traditional reading and lecture course. Some lectures and reading materials will be available on Canvas. In addition, we will encourage active debate in the classroom. Some topics are highly controversial. You will be encouraged to speak your mind in this class without any fear of your opinions impacting your grade.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **TOPIC** | **READING FOR CLASS** | **TAUGHT BY:** |
| 1/6 | Introduction and Basic Economic Theory | C&U: Chap. 2  Casebook: Chap. 1 | Cory Sinclair |
| 1/13 | The Legal System | C&U: Chap. 3  C&U: Chap. 10 (only Intro, I, II, VI) | Cory Sinclair |
| 1/20 | **NO CLASS – MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY** | | |
| 1/27 | Property I | C&U: Chap. 4  (I, II, IV, V, VI)  Casebook: Chap. 2 | Cory Sinclair |
| 2/3 | Property II | C&U: Chap. 5  Casebook: Chap. 2 | Cory Sinclair |
| 2/10 | Contracts I | C&U: Chap. 8  Casebook: Chap. 4 | Cory Sinclair |
| 2/17 | **NO CLASS – PRESIDENTS’ DAY** | | |
| 2/24 | Contracts II | C&U: Chap. 7  Casebook: Chap. 4 | Cory Sinclair |
| **3/3** | **MIDTERM COVERING ALL MATERIAL TO DATE** | | |
| 3/10 | **NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK** | | |
| 3/17 | Torts I | C&U: Chap. 6  Casebook: Chap. 3 | Cory Sinclair |
| 3/24 | Torts II | C&U: Chap 9  Casebook: Chap. 3 | Cory Sinclair |
| 3/31 | Criminal Law / Punitive Damages | C&U: pp. 454-484, 257-261; posted readings | Greg Adams |
| 4/7 | Minimum Wage / Employment | Posted Readings | Greg Adams |
| 4/14 | Antitrust Law | Posted Readings | Cory Sinclair |
| 4/21 | Environmental Regulation | Posted Readings | Greg Adams |
| **4/28** | **FINAL EXAM COVERING ALL MATERIALS** | | |

Miscellaneous Items:

1. The Economics Department’s policy toward unscholastic behavior is as follows: “Unscholastic behavior (e.g., excessive absences, plagiarism, disruptive behavior) may lead to expulsion from and to failure of the class.
2. Any student who believes he / she will require special assistance in this course for any reason, please see Cory Sinclair prior to February 3, 2014.
3. Tutoring is available through the ASUU Tutoring Center in the Student Services Building, Room 330. Students are given a list of tutors to contact so that they may schedule an appointment. Students who qualify for a Pell Grant may also qualify for free tutoring. For more information, call (801) 581-5153 or check the following website: [www.sa.utah.edu/Tutoring/](http://www.sa.utah.edu/Tutoring/)
4. The last day to drop classes is Wednesday, January 15th.
5. The last day to withdraw from classes is Friday, February, 28th.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

(www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

Wellness Statement

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc. can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness – www.wellness.utah.edu; 801-581-7776.