

Public Economics Group
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Course Outline: Economics of Civil & Criminal Law, Summer 2021

IMPORTANT: To accommodate the requirements of students from abroad, this course can be studied online this year. There will be no meetings in the classroom and, importantly, no requirement to participate in onsite exams.

Details:

- Target group: Students in the Master of Science in Economics and Institutions Program
- Lecturer & Tutor: Tim Friehe & Cat Lam Pham
- Timing: There will be online material for self-study in ILIAS and live Q&A sessions using Zoom. Two Q&A sessions are fixed for May 25 (regarding lecture material from 9-10.30 am and regarding tutorial material from 4 to 6 pm). Any additional live session will take place either on Wednesday between 8 and 10 am or on Tuesday between 4 and 6 pm.
- Grading: Formative coursework: Test via ILIAS about the contents of the lectures and tutorials on June 1 from 4.15-5.15 pm.
Examination: Presentation at the end of the term (July 1 & 2).

Description:

Law and Economics is about the way in which legal rules impact the behavior of relevant actors and about the social desirability of these repercussions of legal rules. The first part of the course will convey the principles of the economic analysis of law. The second part of the course will consist of student paper presentations that explore selected topics in more detail.

Topics covered in the first and (potentially) second part:

- Economics of tort law
- Economics of contract law
- Economics of litigation
- Economics of criminal law

Your presentation:

You provide a very detailed presentation and discussion of recent research papers on a well-defined topic. We provide a list containing potentially interesting articles for paper presentation. You may also suggest a paper that was published in a journal (all of the journals mentioned on the article list are permitted) that interests you. Please contact us with questions about paper candidates. Students commit to presenting a specific paper by June 4, at the latest.

NOTE: We very strongly recommend that students present only if they successfully completed the ILIAS-Test.

Timing of material:

| Week | Topic | Tutorial |
|--------|---|----------|
| 15. CW | Introduction | |
| 16. CW | Tort | Sheet 1 |
| 17. CW | Tort | |
| 18. CW | Contract | Sheet 2 |
| 19. CW | Litigation | Sheet 3 |
| 20. CW | Crime | Sheet 4 |
| 21. CW | Q&A Sessions on Tuesday (May 25) | |
| 22. CW | ILIAS-Test on June 1 Commit to Paper Presentation & Specific Paper | |
| 23. CW | | |
| 24. CW | | |
| 25. CW | | |
| 26. CW | PRESENTATIONS | |

References:

Much material of the first part will be based on or similar to the material in:
Miceli, T.J., 1997. Economics of the Law. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Excellent surveys are contained in:

Parisi, F., 2017. The Oxford Handbook of Law and Economics. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Polinsky, A.M. and S. Shavell, 2009. Handbook of Law and Economics. North-Holland.

Syllabus effective (subject to change): 12 March 2021