



Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University

Syllabus

Economics for Lawyers/Law-108

Fall 2021

Credit Hours	3 Semester Hours
Instructor(s)	Prof. Michael Reksulak
Office Hours (by phone or online)	By appointment. Email request in advance (at least 24 hours) required.
Phone	(703) 993-8228
Email	Please use the Blackboard Learn Course Email tool or email me at mreksula@gmu.edu . Emails will almost always be answered within 2 business days.
Course Delivery Format	This is an online-only course delivered via the Blackboard learning management system.
Course Clock	This course will use Eastern Time Zone for all scheduled due dates.

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 OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Your textbook for this course is *Economic Analysis for Lawyers*, Henry N. Butler, Christopher R. Drahozal, & Joanna Shepherd, Third Edition.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59460-997-8

ISBN-10: 1594609977

A free PDF download is available on the course website.

There are additional course readings, such as PDF articles and websites, which are linked in each module.

COURSE STRUCTURE

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 10 learning modules, which are accessible via the Course Menu.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Please see the following link, which describes the technology requirements to successfully participate in this course: www.law.gmu.edu/tech/comp_info_incoming_students/

- High-speed Internet connection
- Adobe Reader
- Flash Player
- QuickTime, RealPlayer, or Windows Media Player
- Microsoft Office, 2010 or later
- Webcam

STUDENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- **Phone:** 1-800-472-8899
- **Email:** support@lawstudentonline.com

COMMUNICATION

The best way to contact me is via email at: mreksula@gmu.edu. You should use this address to send concerns and questions.

NETIQUETTE

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:

- E-mail to your professors should be treated like a business letter. You won't err if you are too formal, but there is the possibility of committing many gaffes if you are too informal. ("Hi", "Hey", etc. are not professional salutations and **they are not acceptable** – "Dear Prof. ..." is.)
- Respect other people's privacy. Do not share others' personal information (e.g., e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc.) without permission.
- It's fine to disagree with, or critique others' ideas, but personal / ad hominem attacks are not acceptable.
- Follow copyright laws and cite others' work appropriately.
- 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 course mates' 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 classmates. Be courteous, respectful of the opinions of others, sensitive to diversity, and polite.
- Free speech is not an absolute right in an online course.
- Obey copyright laws and **cite others' work appropriately**.

RESPONSE TIME

You should expect a response to an email question within 2 business days. If you do not receive a reply to your email within a reasonable period of time, please send it again. Sometimes email is captured in SPAM filters, is addressed incorrectly, or just simply does not get sent.

Responses to discussion board comments **will be required** during the week the questions are open. **Due dates** are posted in the course schedule!

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS

- 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 to Blackboard at least every other day to check for announcements.
- Students are expected to independently complete all activities, assignments, and exams.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This course is delivered asynchronously to accommodate students' other life obligations. Students must access each lecture for an appropriate amount of time and participate substantively in the Discussion Boards.

EXAMINATION POLICY

The exam 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The Course Schedule, located on the Course Menu, provides due dates for all activities in this course.

GRADING POLICY

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.

DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS:

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 often 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. At least 60% of the Discussion Boards will be assessed to assure that your post is (1) timely; (2) reflects effort and knowledge; and (3) adheres to the minimum word requirements. Successful participation in each Discussion Board is worth 1 point. Discussion Boards assessment will count for 30% of your final grade. **Please refer to the course schedule for due dates and times. Late submissions will receive a grade of zero.**

EXAMINATIONS:

There are two examinations in this class: a 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.

Assignment	Percentage
Discussion Boards	30%
Midterm Examination	30%
Final Examination	40%
Total	100%

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

All University policies and procedures can be found at:

www.law.gmu.edu/academics/regulations

At this link you will find the following:

- Academic standards and policies
- Learning outcomes
- Degree requirements
- Structure of the required curriculum

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

www.law.gmu.edu/students