

Law and Economics Colloquium – Law 208

Tuesdays @ 12 pm – 1:15 pm

Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University, Spring 2026

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Office Hours. Wednesdays 11 am – 1 pm & by appointment.

Welcome. This course brings together outside scholars, resident faculty, and law school students for discussion of cutting-edge research papers in the law & economics tradition. Seven sessions will feature guest speakers presenting original research. The remaining weeks introduce key concepts in law and economics, including empirical methods, and an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding through guided discussion and reflections.

Learning Outcome: This course will introduce students to advanced research in law & economics. Students will develop skills in reading, interpreting, and critiquing legal scholarship through written assignments and participation in seminar discussions. Students will also be able to produce and articulate critical questions that will challenge and improve the speakers' research.

Workshops are also open to all interested GMU Faculty (including non-law faculty). Class will be held only on the dates listed below under the Class Schedule.

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance: Attendance and participation at all workshops and in-class meetings are required. Students are also expected to be on time and engaged during discussions.

- *Persons absent for more than 20% of the classroom meetings will not receive a passing grade.*

Required Readings: In addition to the seminar papers, we will read selections from the following texts.

- ADAM CHILTON & KYLE ROZEMA, TRIAL BY NUMBERS (2024).
- ROBERT COOTER & THOMAS ULEN, [LAW AND ECONOMICS](#), 6th Edition (2016),.

Weekly Assignments

- For each seminar paper, students will submit a writeup with three elements: (1) a summary and (2) critical assessment of the paper along with (3) three substantive questions. The summary should be concise *yet thorough*—indicating a comprehensive understanding of the author's arguments and methodologies. The critical assessment of the paper can, inter alia, evaluate the scholarly contribution, the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology,

and the potential implications of the work. Finally, the three questions should be thoughtful and not just simple clarification questions. The questions can also be integrated within the critical assessment. These assignments are intended to not only foster a deeper comprehension of legal and economic concepts but also to cultivate the skill involved in offering constructive criticisms.

- The weekly assignments are due 24 hours before the start of the workshop (that is, Mondays @ 12 pm) and **determine 40% of the final grade.**
- The writeup must be at least three double-spaced pages, fully justified, using 12-point Times New Roman font (or an equivalent font size) with one-inch margins. All assignments should be submitted as a pdf file via TWEN.

Q&A Workshop Comments & Discussion Participation

- Students are expected to engage in workshop discussions. Specifically, each student will be assigned to a set of speakers where the student is required to ask a question in-class during those seminars.
- **Workshop comments & in-class meeting participation determines 15% of the final grade.**

Final Critique

- Students must write one in-depth critique of one of the seminar papers presented in the workshop.
- **The critique is due by Tuesday, April 28 @ 5 pm** and **determines 30% of the final grade.**
- The critique must offer a detailed assessment of the selected paper. Specifically, the critique should *respond* to the paper—and not offer a summary of the paper. Examples of responses include critiques of specific or general points made, possible implications, challenges to the methodology, fundamental questions left unanswered (that arguably should have been addressed), and suggestions for improvements (that follow naturally from the paper and do not represent a completely different project) and extensions. The critique should be centered on the methodology and logic of the paper—not on the policy conclusion.
- The critique must be at least five double-spaced pages, typed in 12-point Times New Roman font (or an equivalent font size), fully justified, and have one-inch margins. There is no need to cite extensively, but, if there are cites, please use the Bluebook format. The critique should be submitted as a pdf file via TWEN.

Final Quiz

- On **April 21**, we will hold our last class meeting, and a final quiz will be administered. The quiz is intended as a knowledge check over the course materials including the seminar papers, assigned readings, and in-class

discussions. Students who engaged with the material during the semester should have no trouble with the knowledge checks.

- **The final quiz determines 15% of the final grade.**

Laptop Policy: Students are permitted to use laptops in class; however, students are expected to give their full attention to the speaker and subsequent discussion.

Honor Code: Students are expected to adhere to the Scalia Law HONOR CODE, which may be found at [Honor Code](#).

Use of AI: The use of generative artificial intelligence is strictly prohibited in drafting or writing coursework related assignments. More information on Scalia Law's policy can be found at ACADEMIC REGULATION 4-3.

Class Schedule

- 1/20 In-Class Meeting: Foundations of Law & Economics
- *Reading: (Optional) Cooter & Ulen, Chs. 1, 2 (37-43)*
- 1/27 **Gus Hurwitz** (UPenn Law)
- 2/3 In-Class Meeting: Student Reflections & Primer on Empirical Methods
- *Reading: Chilton & Rozema, Chs. 1, 3*
- 2/10 **Michael Frakes** (Duke Law)
- 2/17 **Cree Jones** (BYU Law)
- 2/24 (no class)
- 3/3 **Jeff Prince** (Indiana Bus.)
- 3/10 (Spring Break – no class)
- 3/17 In-Class Meeting: Student Reflections & Primer on Regressions
- *Reading: Chilton & Rozema, Ch. 5*
- 3/24 **Kristen Osenga** (Richmond Law)
- 3/31 **Maria Maciá** (Notre Dame Law)
- 4/7 (no class)
- 4/14 **Jeremy Kidd** (Drake Law)
- 4/21 In-Class Meeting: Student Reflections & **Final Quiz**