

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage:	Fall 2019
Discipline:	Economics
Course Number and Title:	ECON 327 Law and Economics
Division:	Upper
Faculty Name:	Humberto Barreto
Semester Credit Hours:	3

Prerequisites: One (1) principles of microeconomics course

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This upper-level, seminar-style course revolves around Richard Posner's claim that "the common law bears the stamp of economic reasoning." We will evaluate to what extent the "economic way of thinking" explains legal rules in property rights, tort, and contract law. We will explore concepts such as the Coase Theorem and see how economics has expanded into legal theory and law schools. Our voyage will enable us to incorporate international law and compare legal systems in different countries. There is no textbook (all readings will be provided) and little lecturing. Class discussion is the primary mode of content delivery and students are expected to actively contribute and engage in the conversation. Each student will participate in a moot court reenactment of a constitutional law case.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Understand how economists think—the economic approach to human behavior.
2. See how economics can be applied to non-traditional areas.
3. Compare legal rules in different countries, especially trademark law.
4. Acquire basic legal literacy (terms and vocabulary).
5. Experience a moot court.
6. Gain exposure to critical constitutional law cases.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

None

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Amsterdam, Netherlands — September 9

A1—September 11: Common Law

Reading: Becker, “Nobel Lecture: The Economic Way of Looking at Behavior”

Note: All assignments are for the NEXT class.

A2—September 13: Economic Approach

Reading: Demsetz and Alchian & Demsetz

Gdansk, Poland — September 15-20

A3—September 21: Theory of Property Rights

Reading: Landes & Posner, “Trademark Law”

A4—September 23: Emergence of Trademarks

Reading: Carter & Poast, “Why Do States Build Walls?”

A5—September 25: Borders

Lisbon, Portugal — September 26-28

Cadiz, Spain — September 29 - October 1

Field class Tuesday, 1 October in Cadiz, Spain

A6—October 3: Coase Game

Reading: Coase, “The Problem of Social Cost”

A7—October 5: Coase Theorem

Reading: Calabresi & Melamed, “Property and Liability Rules”

Dubrovnik, Croatia — October 6-10

A8—October 12: Liability Rules

Application: *Boomer v Atlantic Cement*

A9—October 14: *Boomer* Discussion

Reading: Barreto, “Coase, Pigou, and Pennsylvania Coal Mining Law”

Casablanca, Morocco — October 15-20

A10—October 22: Pennsylvania Coal

A11—October 25: Q&A

A12—October 27: Midterm Exam

Tema, Ghana — October 28-30

Takoradi, Ghana — October 31 – November 1

A13—November 3: *Williams v Walker-Thomas*

Reading: Epstein, “Unconscionability”

A14—November 6: Unconscionability

Reading: Priest, “Consumer Product Warranties”

A15—November 8: Exploitation and Signaling Theories

Salvador, Brazil — November 10-15

A16—November 16: Investment Theory

A17—November 18: Warranty Data and Empirical Testing

Reading Calabresi, *Costs of Accidents*

A18—November 20: General v Specific Deterrence

A19—November 23: Deterrence Applications

Video: Frontline, Rollovers

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago — November 24

A20—November 26: Automobile Safety Regulation

Reading: Charles, *Lords of the Harvest*

A21—November 28: GMO Safety Regulation

Audio: Vaccination

A22—December 1: Vaccination

Guayaquil, Ecuador – December 2

A23–December 9: Rum War

Puntarenas, Costa Rica – December 11-15

A24–December 16: Summary

A25–December 19: Moot Court *US v Causby*

Arrive San Diego, California – December 23

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class & Assignment

The field class for this course is on **Tuesday, 1 October in Cadiz, Spain.**

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class.

Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and are developed and led by the instructor.

International Border Law

This field class includes a trip to Gibraltar to see a functioning border and experience how it is handled. This will serve as an experiential connection to our study of property rights in class.

Class objectives include learning about borders for nation-states and how they are enforced. In addition to trade in goods and services, participants will observe human migration and its impact.

The field class assignment will be due in class on Thursday, 3 October.

Independent Field Assignments

Each student will collect price data that I will use to create a SAS Price Index for all of our ports of call. In addition to the price of a McDonald's Big Mac, you will keep track of the prices of 2 different goods (one trademarked and the other generic) that you expect to find in every port we visit. You will also track the exchange rate at every port we visit. You will keep your data in an Excel spreadsheet and I will use it to construct the price index. The final results will be used in an assignment at the end of the course.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Assignment	Grade Weight	Date
Midterm Exam	20%	27-Oct
Moot Court	20%	19-Dec
Field Class Participation and Assignment	20%	
SAS Price Index Field Data Collection	20%	
Attendance and Participation	20%	

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%: F
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from the student's home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to

academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

None

FILM REQUEST

Title of Film: Rum War
Distributor: CBS News 60 Minutes
WEB LINK:
<https://vimeo.com/209804128> pw: LawEcon

Title of Film: The Hidden History of the SUV
Distributor: PBS Frontline
WEB LINK:
<https://vimeo.com/59514384> pw: LawEcon

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Gary Becker
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Nobel Lecture: The Economic Way of Looking at Behavior"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
WEB LINK:
<http://academic.depauw.edu/~hbarreto/courses/LawEcon/Coursepack/1.1.BeckerNobel.pdf>

AUTHOR: Harold Demsetz
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Toward a Theory of Property Rights"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
WEB LINK:
<http://academic.depauw.edu/~hbarreto/courses/LawEcon/Coursepack/2.1.Demsetz.pdf>

AUTHOR: Armen A. Alchian; Harold Demsetz
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "The Property Right Paradigm"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
WEB LINK:
<http://academic.depauw.edu/~hbarreto/courses/LawEcon/Coursepack/2.2.AlchianDemsetz.pdf>

AUTHOR: William M. Landes; Richard A. Posner
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Trademark Law: An Economic Perspective"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
WEB LINK:
<http://academic.depauw.edu/~hbarreto/courses/LawEcon/Coursepack/2.3.LandesPosner.pdf>

AUTHOR: Ronald Coase
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "The Problem of Social Cost"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
WEB LINK:
<http://academic.depauw.edu/~hbarreto/courses/LawEcon/Coursepack/2.4.Coase.pdf>

AUTHOR: Guido Calabresi; A. Douglas Melamed
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Property Rules, Liability Rules, and Inalienability"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
WEB LINK:
<http://academic.depauw.edu/~hbarreto/courses/LawEcon/Coursepack/2.5.CalabresiMelamed.pdf>

AUTHOR: Humberto Barreto
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Pigou, Coase, and Efficiency Applied to Pennsylvania Coal Mining Law"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Unpublished manuscript
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
WEB LINK:
<http://academic.depauw.edu/~hbarreto/courses/LawEcon/Coursepack/2.7.coasepigou.pdf>

AUTHOR: Richard A. Epstein
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Unconscionability: A Critical Reappraisal"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
WEB LINK:
<http://academic.depauw.edu/~hbarreto/courses/LawEcon/Coursepack/3.1.Epstein.pdf>

AUTHOR: George L. Priest
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "A Theory of the Consumer Product Warranty"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
WEB LINK:
<http://academic.depauw.edu/~hbarreto/courses/LawEcon/Coursepack/3.2.PriestWarrantyF17.pdf>

AUTHOR: Humberto Barreto
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Individual Responsibility and System-wide Results"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Unpublished manuscript
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
WEB LINK:
<http://academic.depauw.edu/~hbarreto/courses/LawEcon/Coursepack/3.3.Signalling.pdf>

AUTHOR: Guido Calabresi
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE:
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: The Costs of Accidents (selected chapters)
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
WEB LINK:
<http://academic.depauw.edu/~hbarreto/courses/LawEcon/Coursepack/4.1.CalabresiCostAcc.pdf>

AUTHOR: Daniel Charles
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE:
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Lords of the Harvests (selected chapters)
VOLUME:
DATE:
PAGES:
WEB LINK:
<http://academic.depauw.edu/~hbarreto/courses/LawEcon/Coursepack/LordsHarvestF17.pdf>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

None