

Economics 220:395
Law & Economics
Spring 2022

Instructor: Ruth Gilgenbach
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Date/Time: T/TH
5:40 – 7:00 PM

Location: Murray Hall 210 (College Ave Campus)

Final Exam: The final exam for this course is scheduled for
Wednesday, May 10, 4 PM to 7 PM
(Final exam schedule available at <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>)

Office Hours: Immediately after class & available for “virtual” office hours via Zoom by appointment.

Prerequisites: Intro to Microeconomics 220:102
Intro to Macroeconomics 220:103
(Lower level elective)

Textbook: Cooter & Ulen, Law and Economics, 6th Edition.
This book is available for free at
<https://lawcat.berkeley.edu/record/1127400>

Exams: There will be three non-comprehensive exams during the semester, and a comprehensive final exam, each of which is worth 1/3 of your grade. I will drop the lowest grade, including the final exam, so that your exam grade is based on the best 3 grades out of 4. If you are satisfied with your grade going into the final exam, you may choose to not take the final exam, and I will drop the final exam grade.

Late Work/Assignments: Late work and makeup exams will, as a rule, not be accepted. Because of my policy of dropping the lowest exam grade (including a zero resulting from not taking an exam), I do not offer makeup exams.

Learning Outcomes

Students who satisfactorily complete Law & Economics will understand and be able to articulate the application of microeconomics principles to questions of law. Along the way, students will learn to analyze questions of law and legal institutions in economic terms, including how to design laws, regulations, and legal institutions to reach efficient outcomes. Major topics covered in this course include economic analysis of: property law, contract law, and tort law.

Grades:

A : $\geq 90\%$

B+: $\geq 87.5\%$ but $< 90\%$

B : $\geq 80\%$ but $< 87.5\%$

C+: $\geq 77.5\%$ but $< 80\%$

C : $\geq 70\%$ but $< 77.5\%$

D : $\geq 60\%$ but $< 70\%$

F : $< 60\%$

Exam Dates:

These dates should be considered reasonably firm, but given the flux of this semester, they may be subject to change.

With the exception of the final exam, exams will be given during normal class time, and all exams (including the final) will take place in the classroom/in-person.

Exam 1: February 23

Exam 2: March 28

Exam 3: April 27

Final Exam: May 10 (4:00 PM)

Class Rules:

1. Turn off your cell phone ringer—to “silent,” not to “vibrate.” I reserve the right to eject any disruptive class members, and I find ringing phones and texting disruptive. Seriously. Turn them off.
2. Please be considerate of your classmates and of me and arrive on time.
3. During exams, cell phones **must** be put away and cannot be used as a calculator or a clock.
4. Be thoughtful using a computer to take notes in class. Some students are capable of doing this successfully, so I will not ban it outright. However, the temptation to stop taking notes and begin browsing TikTok/Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/Snapchat/YikYak/Xanga/LiveJournal/Ravelry is great; this is distracting not only to you, but also to those around you. If it becomes a problem, I may reconsider my position on a laptop ban.
5. Attendance is not mandatory, but it’s a good idea to come to class. I may call attendance to help me put names with faces.
6. If you think that I made a mistake grading an assignment, the statute of limitations for requesting a scoring change is 2 weeks from the date that I return exams to the class.

Academic Integrity:

The guidelines of Rutgers University's Academic Integrity Policy apply to this course. This policy is available here:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Information for students with disabilities

- Full disability policies and procedures are at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>
- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

Information for religiously observant students

- The University's policy on religious holidays is available here: <https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/religious-holiday-policy>

Student-Wellness Services:

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS), for non-emergency psychological health issues:

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

Scarlet Listeners, for confidential peer counseling and referral hotline:

<http://www.scarletlisteners.com/> or call (732) 247-5555

Disability Services: (848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>