

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

JURI 620

LAW AND ECONOMICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Law and economics as a jurisprudential theory seeks to apply neoclassic economics concepts to law. Law and economics tends to be both positive (explaining rules in terms of economic concepts) and normative (arguing that legal rules should promote economic efficiency). This course considers a variety of subject areas in order to provide a critique of law and economics from the perspective of the distinct mission of Liberty University School of Law.

Note: LL.M. students must meet additional legal brief component as described in course syllabus.

RATIONALE

Within the overarching mission of Liberty University School of Law, the purpose of Law and Economics is to provide the student with the opportunity to understand the economic analysis of legal issues and concepts and to critique the law and economics perspective. In addition, this course endeavors to challenge the student to consider the course topics from a distinctly Christian worldview.

I. PREREQUISITES

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain the history, ascendancy, basic tenets, and importance of law and economics.

- B. Analyze various issues and concepts of law and policy from a law and economics perspective.
- C. Critique the law and economics perspective and its underlying worldview and assumptions.
- D. Assess all of the preceding in light of a Christian worldview.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (2)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to post his or her Essay as a thread for each forum. The student is then required to reply to at least 2 classmates' threads and at least 1 classmate's reply to his or her own thread for a total of at least 3 replies. Each reply must be substantive in nature, must be at least 250 words, and must incorporate at least 1 scholarly, legal source in current Bluebook format. The purpose of the forums is to facilitate discussion of the topics addressed in the Essays.

- D. Essays (2)

For each Essay, the student will write a 1,500–2,000-word research-based paper in current Bluebook format that answers one of the provided questions. Answering the question will require the ability to accurately state the law and economics position and to critique that position from a distinctly evangelical Christian worldview. Each Essay must incorporate at least 3 scholarly, legal sources in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

- E. Judicial Opinion Assignment

The student will write a 3,000–3,500-word judicial opinion in current Bluebook format that responds to a classic legal fact pattern. The response must reflect a distinctly evangelical Christian worldview and must critique an opinion written from a law and economics perspective by a leading law and economics scholar. The student must incorporate at least 3 scholarly, legal sources in addition to the other opinions referenced in the assignment, the course textbooks, and the Bible.

Note: LL.M. students must add an additional 2,500 words of writing in their final opinion. This is a Pass/Fail component of this assignment. This is not required of J.M. students.

- F. Exams (3)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the module(s)/week(s) preceding the exam and the module/week in which the exam is assigned. Each

exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 10 essay questions, and have a 2-hour time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
Essays (2 at 150 pts ea)	300
Judicial Opinion Assignment	200
Exam 1 (Modules 1–3)	100
Exam 2 (Modules 4–6)	100
Exam 3 (Modules 7–8)	100
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

JURI 620

Textbooks: Chrisman, *Law & Economics: A Christian Perspective* (2016).
Posner, *Economic Analysis of Law* (2014).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Chrisman: ch. 1 Posner: Selected Readings 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Essay 1	10 0 150
2	Chrisman: ch. 2 Posner: Selected Readings 1 presentation	DB Forum 1	100
3	Chrisman: ch. 3 Posner: Selected Readings 1 presentation	Exam 1	100
4	Chrisman: ch. 4 Posner: Selected Readings 1 presentation	Essay 2	150
5	Chrisman: ch. 5 Posner: Selected Readings 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	100
6	Chrisman: ch. 6 Posner: Selected Readings 1 presentation	Exam 2	100
7	Chrisman: ch. 7 Posner: Selected Readings 1 presentation	Judicial Opinion Assignment	200
8	Chrisman: ch. 8 Posner: Selected Readings 1 presentation	Exam 3	100
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.