



**Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University  
LLM**

**Syllabus  
Economics for Lawyers/Law-108  
Spring 2024**

<b>Credit Hours</b>	3 Semester Hours
<b>Instructor(s)</b>	<b>Sarah Sylvester</b>
<b>Office Hours</b> (by phone or online)	By appointment. Email request in advance (at least 24 hours) required.
<b>Phone</b>	Request from Professor
<b>Email</b>	Please use the Blackboard Learn Course Email tool or email me at <a href="mailto:ssylves@gmu.edu">ssylves@gmu.edu</a> Emails will almost always be answered within 2 business days.
<b>Course Delivery Format</b>	This is an online-only course delivered via the Blackboard learning management system.
<b>Course Clock</b>	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/](http://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](mailto:support@lawstudentonline.com)

## COMMUNICATION

The best way to contact me is via email at: [ssylves@gmu.edu](mailto:ssylves@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 professional.
- 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.
- Keep your communications as clear, straightforward, and concise as possible.
- 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.**

- **Limitations on use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) in Academic Work**

AR 4-3: (a) Definition: Generative artificial intelligence (GAI) is a type of artificial intelligence that uses algorithms to generate new content, such as text or images, based on the data it has been trained on. For purposes of this regulation, GAI is not intended to encompass legal research databases and word processing applications that, while incorporating AI-based elements or enhancements, do not generate novel text. (b) Papers and coursework: The use of GAI in drafting or writing coursework, including papers and reaction papers, is prohibited unless expressly identified in writing by the instructor as an appropriate resource for the work in the instructor's course. (c) Examinations: The use of GAI in preparing to write or writing exam answers is prohibited unless expressly identified in writing by the instructor as an appropriate resource for the exam in the instructor's course. (d) Instructors permitting the use of GAI outputs shall specify in writing the course parameters of allowable use and disclosure expectations. Instructors may require students to disclose the GAI outputs relied upon, and further show exactly how and where those outputs were used in the academic work. (e) If not expressly identified as permissible in writing by the instructor, any use of GAI will be considered academic dishonesty involving cheating in violation of Section 1.01.1 and/or 1.01.5 of the Honor Code, and violators may be subject to the disciplinary sanctions set forth in Section 3.01 of the Honor Code. Law School instructors and administrators reserve the right to use AI detection software to find instances of GAI in student submissions.

### **RESPONSE TIME**

You should expect a response to an email question within 2 business days. If you do not receive a reply within a reasonable period, 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 to adhere to the honor code of the university and the law school, especially with regard to plagiarism rules. Any instance of plagiarism will be reported to the appropriate committee, and we will ask for all available sanctions to be imposed on the guilty party.
- Students are expected to keep up with the required readings, watch the required recordings, and 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 on 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. Plagiarized 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 and open-book.

Assignment	Percentage
Discussion Boards	30%
Midterm Examination	30%
Final Examination	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

All University policies and procedures can be found at:  
[www.law.gmu.edu/academics/regulations](http://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

**Honor Code:**

[www.law.gmu.edu/academics/honor\\_code](http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/honor_code)

**Course Withdrawal Form:**

[www.law.gmu.edu/assets/files/records/course\\_withdrawal\\_form.pdf](http://www.law.gmu.edu/assets/files/records/course_withdrawal_form.pdf)

**RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

[www.law.gmu.edu/students](http://www.law.gmu.edu/students)