

**Introduction to Law and Economics:  
A course in Concepts and Methods of Law and Economics**

**10. August – 17. August**  
**Prof Stefan Voigt (Part 1)**  
**Prof. Franziska Weber/Dr. Stefan Michel (Part 2)**  
**Marek Endrich**

*Syllabus*

**Course goal:**

In essence, this course will provide you with an overview on institutional economics and the tools needed to carry out your own basic economic analysis of a legal rule!

**Course description and content:**

This course offers an introduction to the basic concepts and methods of law and economics. It offers an overview on institutional economics in part one, and then focuses more on formal institutions by offering an introduction of the economic methodology of the law or law and economics in part two.

The course is organized in a two-fold way:

- 1) Firstly, basic concepts of institutional economics are introduced, among others:
  - Human behavior according to economics,
  - Institutions and their typology,
  - Toolkit of institutional economics or law and economics: game theory, empirical research, etc...
  
- 2) The second part of the course involves applications of the toolkits to specific legal problems e.g. the Coase theorem, transaction costs, etc., followed by an implementation of the economic concepts to analyze criminal law.

The course is designed for both, economics and law students. For economics students, it is an interesting application of the economic way of thinking to selected real world legal problems and policy issues. Law students will learn to understand legal issues from an economic perspective with a focus on a clear understanding of the logic and underlying economic intuition rather than just the results. The economic approach to law provides a unified vision of the law, tying together diverse areas of law into a common theoretical structure.

**Learning goals:**

On satisfying the requirements for this course, students

- should obtain a general understanding of important L&E concepts and methods
- should have the knowledge and skills to recognize the economic issues in a legal problem
- should be able to make a basic economic analysis of a legal problem

**General introductory reading:**

*Voigt*, Institutional Economics-An introduction, Cambridge University Press, 2019 – Available at CIELE office.

*Cooter/Ulen*, Law and Economics, 6th ed., 2016 - freely available online at:

<https://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/books/2/>

**Course structure:**

10. August – 11. August: Part 1: From Institutional Economics to Law and Economics: Prof. Stefan Voigt (pre-recorded material provided)
12. August – 13. August: Part 2: Law and Economics: Prof. Franziska Weber (pre-recorded material provided)
17. August: Marek Endrich, Zoom meeting (9:30 am – 11:30am)