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Office Hours: by appointment, and

Monday & Tuesday
before class, 5:30 - 6:00 PM
and after class, 8:40 - 9:00 PM (CBA 218 Tues.)
(after class office hours start in the classroom)

Special Topics: **Information Technology Law and Economics**

ECON 4910, #03383; BSAD 8916, #03363; ECON 8916, #03387
Fall 2000 **Monday 6:00 - 8:40 PM CBA 214**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will cover a wide range of information technology topics exploring the issues using the tools of analysis from both law and economics. Some of the issues we will explore are taxation of transactions on the net, the value of privacy on the web, and the Microsoft antitrust lawsuit. Class members may select additional IT issues for consideration. Student projects, rather than exams, will be the primary means of earning grades. The only prerequisite is undergraduate microeconomics. This course is cross-listed as ECON 4910, BSAD 8916, and ECON 8916. NOTE: MBA students ordinarily are limited to 3 credit hours of 8xx6 courses.

GRADING:

20% Class Participation
60% Student Project (NOTE EXTRA WORK FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS)
20% Essay Final Exam

TEXTBOOKS:

1. Mercurio, Nicholas and Medema, Steven G., **Economics and the Law**. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1997. 235 pages. ISBN: 0-691-00544-3.

The Mercurio text describes the fundamentally different styles and assumptions that support the five major schools of economic analysis of the law (i.e., Chicago, Public Choice, Institutional, Neo-Institutional, and Critical Legal Studies). Each school will appear "better" suited to analysis of different IT issues. The entire Mercurio text will be covered in this class.

2. Ferrera, Gerald. R., Lichtenstein, Stephen D., Reder, Margot E. K., August, Ray, Schiano, William T., **Cyberlaw: Text and Cases**. Cincinnati, OH: West Legal Studies in Business, 2001. 450 pages. ISBN: 0-324-01297-7.

The Ferrera text may not be available the first day of class as it is going to the printers in late July 2000. The Ferrera text focuses upon cyberspace business issues (i.e., intellectual property, contracting, taxation, and securities) and cyberspace social issues (i.e., privacy, obscenity, defamation, security, and crime) with both domestic and international coverage. To reduce the reading load, based on expressions of student interest, less than the entire Ferrera text will be covered in this class.

OTHER ASSIGNED READINGS

In addition to the two textbooks the instructor often will provide abstracts of recent academic papers related to the assigned readings. Typically, these copies will be provided by email.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

It is difficult to participate in class discussions when not physically present. Class participation is worth 20% of the course grade and will be earned in two categories.

Half of the class participation grade will be earned during in class discussions of the **assigned readings**. Each assigned reading will have at least two students with responsibility to lead the class discussion on that reading. Students may volunteer to lead a discussion for a specific assigned reading. The instructor shall select the student discussion leaders for each assigned reading. The instructor will defer to the volunteers, but also will assure that each assigned readings has at least two discussion leaders.

The other **half** of the class participation grade will be earned during the **presentations** of other students. Each student presentation shall have at least two students with the responsibility to lead the class discussion on that presentation. Each presenter shall nominate between three and five classmates to lead the discussion of that presenter's presentation. The instructor shall select the student discussion leaders for each presentation. The instructor will defer to the presenter's nominations, but also will assure that each student leads a discussion of at least one presentation.

STUDENT PROJECTS:

With the prior written approval of the instructor each student may select for an essay topic any information technology topic. The selected topic need not be covered by either of the textbooks. Each student is encouraged to select a topic drawn from or closely related to another class that student is taking this semester, or which is closely related to that student's employment.

The **essay** shall be typed. The essay shall use tools of analysis drawn from both **law** and from **economics**. The essay must address **ethical implications**. Student Projects are worth 60% of the course grade and have four graded components.

For **10%** of the course grade on **October 9** the student shall submit a one-page **concept outline** of the proposed essay topic, including *complete* bibliographic citations. Ideally, the student will discuss with the instructor the concept paper prior to submitting it for grading and seeking approval of the student's essay topic.

For **20%** of the course grade on **October 23** the student shall submit a **first draft** of the essay. The student may use footnotes (preferred) or endnotes. The student shall include a bibliography of separate items cited by the student within the

essay. For **20%** of the course grade on **November 6** the student shall submit a **second draft** of the essay, including updated foot/endnotes and bibliography. First drafts and second drafts each will be submitted in two forms, a printed copy and *as the body* of an email to the instructor (the subject line shall be the student's full name and the title of the paper).

For **10%** of the course grade on **November 13** the student shall submit **PowerPoint slides** (*printed three slides per page*). At a time to be fixed later, the student shall make an **oral presentation** of the essay topic to the class using (updated) PowerPoint slides.

TASKS	UNDERGRADUATES	GRADUATES
Length of Essay: Min & Max	600 - 800 words	800 - 1,000 words
Length of Ethics Section: Min	100 words	200 words
Concept Outline Length: Max	1 page	1 page
Concept Outline Citations: Min	4	6
1st Draft Citations: Min	5	8
PowerPoint slides: Min & Max	6 - 12	12 - 15

ESSAY FINAL EXAM:

The Essay Final Exam will be at the Regent's scheduled final exam time of Monday, December 11, 2000 from 6:00 to 8:40 PM. **Each student shall bring a bluebook to the exam.** There will be three essay topics based upon the assigned readings. The essay Final Exam is worth **20%** of the course grade. From 6:00 to 6:30 students may study for the final and may review the course by asking the instructor questions. The exam itself will start at 6:30.

From **6:30 to 7:00** the exam the exam will be closed book, closed notes, and closed computers. This portion of the exam will be conducted in **CBA 214**. **In the blue book**, during these 30 minutes each student shall outline the key points for an essay on each of the three topics. At the end of the first 30 minutes (and not prior to that time) each student shall turn in their blue book for grading.

From **7:00 to 8:40** the exam will be open book, open notes, and open web access. This portion of the exam then will be held in **CBA 402** that provides each student computer access. Each student shall *select one of the three essay topics* upon which to write a typed essay of between 500 to 600 words. The typed essay shall be submitted in two forms: printed and *as the body* of an email to the instructor (the subject line of the email shall be the student's full name and the essay topic).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Any form of academic dishonesty (*e.g., unintentionally sending a virus contaminated email to a person connect to this class*) may be grounds for a course grade of "F".

SCHEDULE OF CLASS EVENTS

DATE	ASSIGNED READINGS	DUE DATES
Aug 21	Introduction	
Aug 28	Mercuro Chap. 1: Jurisprudence (47 pages)	
Sep 4	no class LABOR DAY	
Sep 11	Mercuro Chap 2 and 3: Chicago and Public Choice (50 pages)	
Sep 18	Mercuro: Chap. 4 and 5: Institutional and Neo-Institutional (56 pages)	
Sep 25	Ferrera Chap. 1 and 2: Tech. & Cyberlaw, and Jurisdiction (60 pages)	
Oct 2	Ferrera Chap. 3 and 4: Copyright and Trademarks (60 pages)	
Oct 9	Ferrera Chap. ___ and ___:	CONCEPT PAPER due
Oct 16	no class FALL BREAK	
Oct 23	Mercuro Chap. 6 & 7: Critical and Conclusion (34 pages) Ferrera Chap. ___	FIRST DRAFT due
Oct 30	Ferrera Chap. ___ and ___	
Nov 6	Ferrera Chap. ___	SECOND DRAFT due
Nov 13	Ferrera Chap. ___	SLIDES due
Nov 20	presentations	(turkey week)
Nov 27	presentations	
Dec 4	presentations	student evaluations
Dec 11	6:00 - 6:30 review 6:30 - 7:00 in CBA 214 7:00 - 8:40 in CBA 402	ESSAY FINAL EXAM blue book outline of three topics type one essay