

## Law and Economics

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### Dates

|                        |             |                                                     |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Fr, September 25, 2026 | 14:00-18:00 | Introduction                                        |
| Fr, November 13, 2026  | 14:00-18:00 | Property Law & Tort Law                             |
| Fr, November 20, 2026  | 14:00-18:00 | Criminal Law & Legal Process                        |
| Fr, December 4, 2026   | 14:00-18:00 | Environmental Law & Public Law                      |
| Fr, December 11, 2026  | 14:00-18:00 | Contracts & Competition Law                         |
| Fr, December 18, 2026  | 14:00-18:00 | Intellectual Property/Privacy Law & Commodification |

### Assignment

Students are asked to prepare a written paper and prepare and hold an individual presentation:

Students are to **write a short, scientific comment on a research article** falling within the scope of one of the units.

The **presentation (unlike the comment)** should focus on the **main findings of the research article** and allow other students to discuss the topics in the research article.

Length of scientific comment: 2,500-3,000 words (without footnotes, bibliography etc.).

Presentation: max. 10 slides, presented for 10min (followed by a discussion, 10min).

Deadline for the paper and the slides: **Wednesday, 11 November 2026, 23:59 CEST**

Detailed requirements with regard to form and content will be provided in a separate document (**Guidelines on Legal Writing** available on OLAT).

## Topics

### Property Law

- 1A: *RH. Coase*, The Problem of Social Cost
- 1B: *O. Bar-Gill/C. Engel*, Bargaining in the Absence of Property Rights: An Experiment
- 1C: *CR. Plott/K. Zeiler*, The Willingness to Pay-Willingness to Accept Gap, the 'Endowment Effect,' Subject Misconceptions, and Experimental Procedures for Eliciting Valuations

### Tort Law

- 2A: *FA. Sloan/BA. Reilly/C. Schenzler*, Effects of Tort Liability and Insurance on Heavy Drinking and Driving
- 2B: *MJ. Shukaitis*, A Market in Personal Injury Tort Claims
- 2C: *G. Dari-Mattiacci, LA. Franzoni*, Innovative Negligence Rules

### Criminal Law

- 3A: *JA. Miron/J. Zwiebel*, The Economic Case against Drug Prohibition
- 3B: *I. Ehrlich*, The Deterrent Effect of Capital Punishment: A Question of Life and Death
- 3C: *U. Gneezy/A. Rustichini*, A Fine is a Price

### Legal Process

- 4A: *J. Rachlinski/A. Wistrich*, Judging the Judiciary by the Numbers
- 4B: *E. Helland/A. Tabarrok*, The Fugitive: Evidence on Public versus Private Law Enforcement From Bail Jumping
- 4C: *J. Kleinberg/H. Lakkaraju/J. Leskovec/J. Ludwig/S. Mullainathan*, Human Decisions and Machine Predictions
- 4D: *B. Chen/Y. Hermstrüwer/P. Langenbach/A. Stremitzer/K. Tobia*, Mitigating the Judicial Human-AI Fairness Gap

### Environmental Law

- 5A: *RL. Revesz/MA. Livermore*, Retaking Rationality: How Cost-Benefit Analysis Can Better Protect the Environment and Our Health
- 5B: *GE. Metcalf/JH. Stock*, The Macroeconomic Impact of Europe's Carbon Taxes

- 5C: *O. Deschênes/M. Greenstone/JS. Shapiro*, Defensive Investments and the Demand for Air Quality: Evidence from the NOx Budget Program

### Public Law

- 6A: *G. Stigler*, The Theory of Economic Regulation
- 6B: *A. Chilton/M. Versteeg*, Rights without Resources: The Impact of Constitutional Social Rights on Social Spending
- 6C: *A. Abdulkadiroğlu/T. Sönmez*, School Choice: A Mechanism Design Approach

### Contracts

- 7A: *S. Brams/J. Mitts*, Law and Mechanism Design: Procedures to Induce Honest Bargaining
- 7B: *I. Ayres/A. Schwartz*, The No-Reading Problem in Consumer Contract Law
- 7C: *O. Ben-Shahar/O. Bar-Gill*, Rethinking Nudge: An Information-Costs Theory of Default Rules

### Competition Law

- 8A: *P. Cramton/E. Kwerel/G. Rosston/A. Skrzypacz*, Using Spectrum Auctions to Enhance Competition in Wireless Services
- 8B: *JM. Newman*, Antitrust in Zero-Price Markets: Foundations
- 8C: *J. Campbell/A. Goldfarb/C. Tucker*, Privacy Regulation and Market Structure
- 8D: *A. Ezrachi/ME. Stucke*, Artificial Intelligence & Collusion: When Computers Inhibit Competition

### Intellectual Property Law & Privacy Law

- 9A: *S. Shavell/T. van Ypersele*, Rewards versus Intellectual Property Rights
- 9B: *C. Buccafusco et al.*, Experimental Tests of Intellectual Property Laws' Creativity Thresholds
- 9C: *A. Acquisti/LK. John/G. Loewenstein*, What is Privacy Worth?

### Commodification

- 10A: *GS. Becker/JJ. Elías*, Introducing Incentives in the Market for Live and Cadaveric Organ Donations
- 10B: *J. Moraga/H. Rapoport*, Tradable Refugee-admission Quotas and EU Asylum Policy

- 10C: *AE. Roth*, Repugnance as a Constraint on Markets
- 10D: *H. Gao/V. Petrova*, Do Prostitution Laws Affect Rape Rates? Evidence from Europe

### Assignment procedure:

Deadline for applications: **Wednesday, 23 September 2026**.

All students who wish to prepare a paper will have to send an e-mail to [lst.hermstruewer@ius.uzh.ch](mailto:lst.hermstruewer@ius.uzh.ch) with the following information:

1. Name, matriculation number, field of study (economics or law)
2. Preferred topic
3. Second potential topic
4. Third potential topic

Example:

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| John Smith, 11-111-111, law |
| Preference: 2B              |
| Second option: 3A           |
| Third option: 7A            |

The topics for the individual papers will be assigned by **Sunday, 04 October 2026**. Please **note** that **preferences cannot always be respected**.

### Paper Submission

Deadline for the submission of both paper and presentation is **Wednesday, 11 November 2025, 23:59 CEST**.

Via e-mail to [lst.hermstruewer@ius.uzh.ch](mailto:lst.hermstruewer@ius.uzh.ch), **mar**

- Paper: **Word, LaTeX pdf**
- Presentation: **Power Point, LaTeX pdf**

### Program

**September 25, 2026:**

Introduction to Law and Economics. Information about the course.

**November 13 – December 18, 2026:**

On each day, the topics listed in the course reader be covered (90min per topic, appr. 4 presentations in total). Each of these parts will have the following structure:

1. Introduction to the topic by the instructors (approx. 30 min)
2. Presentation by student 1 (15 min)
3. Student commentators and plenary discussion (15 min): based on 3-4 questions prepared by student 1
4. Presentation by student 2 (15 min)
5. Student commentators and plenary discussion (15 min), etc.

## Grading

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Paper:                 | 40% |
| Presentation (slides): | 20% |
| Oral participation:    | 40% |

*Papers have to be assessed with a pass grade (at least grade 4) for a participant to pass the course. It is not possible to compensate for an insufficient paper grade with a pass grade obtained for the individual presentation and/or oral participation.*

*Due to time constraints, not all students will be able to give their prepared presentation in class. Only selected students may present in class. To ensure fair evaluation, the evaluation of the slides is based on the slides only. The in class presentation of selected students does not factor into this grading element.*

*Oral participation is assessed through the quality and consistency of the participatory input. As not all students will be able to present their prepared paper/slides in class, they are especially expected to actively engage in the discussion of their prepared topic/ session covering their assigned topic. The participation on this prepared topic will heavily influence the overall participation grade. Furthermore, it is expected that each student shows an ongoing oral participation and meaningful engagement in all sessions, irrespective of whether students are presenting the same day. This engaging oral participation will make up the majority of the oral participation grade. So how actively and thoughtfully you contribute to class over time will determine your grade, rather than from your presentation alone.*

*I.e. Paper:  $x * 0.4$  (at least 4.0, otherwise participant will not pass)*

*Presentation:  $+ y * 0.2$*

*Oral participation:  $+ z * 0.4$*

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Final Grade