

**University of South Carolina  
School of Law**

**Travis C. Wheeler**

**Law & Economics**

**Texts: Law & Economics: Positive, Normative and Behavioral Perspectives (Cotter & Harrison)  
Order without Law: How Neighbors Settle Disputes (Ellickson)**

**Learning Objectives and Assessment:** the objective for students of this class is to learn to apply economic analyses to various areas of substantive law and to develop an understanding of how and why the law evolves. Students will be assessed through a final examination given at the conclusion of the class.

**Syllabus**

Part I: An Introduction to Law & Economics (and Cattlemen)

**Week 1:** Cotter & Harrison pp. 1-43 (George, Watts, Kemezy).  
Ellickson pp.1-28.

**Week 2:** Cotter & Harrison pp. 43-69 (Specialty Tires, Tragedy of the Commons, Page, Rasmussen).  
Ellickson pp. 29-39.

**Week 3:** Cotter & Harrison pp. 71-102 (Approaches to Rationality, Anonymous, Godinez, Matsushita).  
Ellickson pp. 40-64.

Part II: The Coase Theorem and Related Matters

**Week 4:** Cotter & Harrison pp. 165-91(Fontainebleau, O Centro Espirita, Boomer, Weingarten).  
Ellickson pp. 65-81.

**Week 5:** Cotter & Harrison pp. 204-07; 224-51 (Ploof, One View of the Cathedral, Mieske, Sedmak, Spur, Rush, Baby M).  
Ellickson pp. 82-103.

Part III: The Economics of Promissory Obligations

**Week 6:** Cotter & Harrison pp. 253-89 (Frigalment; Jones; Dwyer; Odorizzi; Garwood)  
Ellickson pp. 104-122.

**Week 7:** Cotter & Harrison pp. 289-322 (ProCD, Meadors, Coastal Unilube; Allapattah; Peevyhouse; Walgreen).  
Ellickson pp. 123-136.

**Week 8:** Cotter & Harrison pp. 322-52 (R.E. Davis; Hector Martinez; Pacheco; Katherine and John Ford; NIPSCO; Sub-Zero).  
Ellickson pp. 137-166.

Part IV: Tort Law

**Week 9:** Cotter & Harrison pp. 353-381 (Adams; Carroll Towing; Hendricks; McCarty; Kelly; Schoenmaers).  
Ellickson pp. 167-183.

**Week 10:** Cotter & Harrison pp. 381-427 (Birge; Dutton; IHBRCO; Irvine; Brooks; Rasnick).  
Ellickson pp. 184-206.

Part V: The Economics of Antitrust Law

**Week 11:** Cotter & Harrison pp. 699-737 (Brown; Engineers; ALCOA; Aspen).  
Ellickson pp. 207-229.

Part VI: The Efficiency of the Common Law

**Week 12:** Handout  
Ellickson pp. 230-266.

Part VII: Constitutional Law and Public Choice

**Week 13:** Handout  
Ellickson pp. 267-288.