



COURSE DESCRIPTION - FACULTY OF LAW

COURSE NUMBER: **486:B5**

COURSE NAME: **Jurisprudence** (Law & Economics)

PREREQUISITE COURSES: N/A

PREREQUISITE FOR: N/A

CREDITS: **3** HOURS PER TERM: **3** TERM: **2nd** MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT:

PROFESSOR: **E. Kaplinsky**

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: lecture/seminar

METHOD OF EVALUATION: 75% for three short (6–7 pages) essays or case comments to be submitted in class during the term, and 25% for class participation (note: participation mark will be reconsidered if class is large)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The seminar introduces students to economic analysis of the law; no formal background in economics is necessary. We will explore the concept of economic efficiency and its role in legal analysis: Are law and legal institutions efficient? Could they be more efficient? Should they be? These questions will be explored through analysis of a variety of legal problems taken from tort law, contract, property, criminal law, and other areas of the law, including: What is the most effective method of controlling pollution? How do we value human life? Should individuals be allowed to trade in body parts? Should contracts be enforced by specific performance or damages? How do we decide when to jail perpetrators of harm instead of making them compensate their victims?

REQUIRED TEXT: David D. Friedman, *Law's Order: What Economics Has to Do with Law and Why It Matters* (Princeton University Press, 2000)

Case law and other material will be assigned on a weekly basis.
