



FACULDADE DE DIREITO
Universidade de Lisboa

Curricular unit sheet

Course Master (1st semester 2025/2026)

1. Curricular unit

LAW AND ECONOMICS

2. Responsible Academic staff

Professor Miguel Patrício (PhD)

3. Learning outcomes of the curricular unit

The course aims to provide students with the essential concepts and methodologies of Law and Economics in a dynamic and critical perspective.

4. Syllabus

1. INTRODUCTION: A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF LAW AND ECONOMICS
2. BASIC ECONOMIC NOTIONS
 - 2.1. Rationality, incentives and institutions
 - 2.2. Externalities, public goods and common resources
 - 2.3. Efficiency
3. COASE AND TRANSACTION COSTS ECONOMICS
 - 3.1. The «Coase Theorem»
 - 3.2. Transaction costs / Market, contract and firm
 - 3.3. The environmental problems
4. AREAS OF RESEARCH
 - 4.1. Property
 - 4.2. Contract
 - 4.3. Legal Process
 - 4.4. Crime and Punishment
 - 4.5. Constitution and Public Choice

5. Teaching methodologies (including evaluation)

Classes combine traditional lectures with student's participation. Individual evaluation: oral presentations and final written paper.

6. Main Bibliography

Basic bibliography:

Cooter, Robert & Thomas Ulen, *Law and Economics*

(Free online access: http://www.econ.jku.at/t3/staff/winterebmer/teaching/law_economics/ss19/6th_edition.pdf)

Coase, Ronald, "The problem of social cost", *Journal of Law and Economics*, 3 (1), 1960, pp. 1-44

(Free online access: <https://www.sfu.ca/~wainwrig/Econ400/coase-socialcost.pdf>)

Advanced bibliography:

Mackaay, Ejan, *Law and Economics for Civil Law Systems*; **Miceli, Thomas J.**, *The Economic Approach to Law*;

Polinsky, A. Mitchell, *An Introduction to Law and Economics*; **Posner, Richard A.**, *Economic Analysis of Law*;

Schäfer, Hans-Bernd & Claus Ott, *The Economic Analysis of Civil Law*; **Shavell, Steven**, *Foundations of Economic Analysis of Law*.