

Regulation EC 723, 823 (MA, Ph.D.)
Wednesday 4:30-7:10pm, 1 Bowdoin Room B
Final Exam December 14th 5:40pm-7:30pm

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1-2:30pm and by appointment

This course will introduce students to economic theories of regulation. We will explore theories of market failure and the rationale for regulation. We will explore how regulators function in differing institutional environments. With this analytic toolkit we will then study various topical areas of regulation including: Monopoly and Antitrust, Environmental, Health, Safety, Financial Market, Housing, and Vice.

Expectations: You are expected to read each week's assigned readings *BEFORE* coming to class and to be prepared to discuss them. Readings will come from the books, professional journal articles, and policy studies. Graduate school is about transforming from a consumer of economics to a producer of new economic knowledge. Unless you engage and digest the readings on your own before class you will have difficulty making the transition.

Books:

Kip Viscusi, Joseph Harrington, and John Vernon. *Economics of Regulation and Antitrust* 4th ed. MIT Press. 2005.

Dominick Armentano. *Antitrust and Monopoly*. Independent Institute. 1996.

Jim Leitzel, *Regulating Vice*. Cambridge University Press. 2007.

William Mitchell and Randy Simmons. *Beyond Politics*. Westview. 1994.

Grading:

Final Exam	30%
Midterm Exam	20%
Term Paper	30%
Quizzes/Participation	20%

Tentative Schedule

Sept. 9 **Intro & Market Failure**

Viscusi et al Chapters 1 & 2
Mitchell & Simmons Chapter 1

Sept. 14 **The Economics of Politics**

Mitchell & Simmons Chapters 2, 3, 4, & 6.

Sept. 21 **The Economic Theory of Regulation**

Viscusi et al. Chapter 10.
Stigler, G. (1971) "The Theory of Economic Regulation." *The Bell Journal of Economics and Management Science*. Vol. 2 (1): 3-21.
Peltzman, S. (1976) "Toward a More General Theory of Regulation." *Journal of Law and Economics*. Vol. 19(2): 211-240.
Becker, G. (1983) "A Theory of Competition Among Pressure Groups for Political Influence." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. Vol. 98(3): 371-400.
Peltzman, S. (1993) "George Stigler's Contribution to the Economic Analysis of Regulation." *Journal of Political Economy*. Vol. 101(5): 818-832.
Glaeser, E. and Shleifer, A. (2003) "The Rise of the Regulatory State." *Journal of Economic Literature* 41: 402-425.
McChesney, F. (1987) "Rent Extraction and Rent Creation in the Economic Theory of Regulation." *Journal of Legal Studies* 16: 101-118.
Yandle, B. (1983) "Bootleggers and Baptists – The Education of a Regulatory Economist." *Regulation*. Vol. 7(3): 12-16.

Sept. 28 **Health and Safety**

Viscusi et al Chapter 19, 22, & 23.
Peltzman, S. (1975) "The Effects of Automobile Safety Regulation." *Journal of Political Economy* 83(4): 677-726.
Arnold, Dennis (2010) "Working Condition: Safety and Sweatshops." Will be distributed.

Oct. 5 **Environmental**

Viscusi et al Chapter 21.
Yandle, B. (1998) "Bootleggers, Baptists, and Global Warming." *PERC Policy Series* 14:
<http://www.perc.org/articles/article193.php>
Anderson and Leal "Rethinking the Way We Think" and "Homesteading the Oceans" in *Free Market Environmentalism*. Handout.

Oct. 12 **Midterm Exam**

Oct. 19 **Housing (State and Local)**

Holcombe, R. and Powell B. (eds.) (2009) *Housing America: Building Out of a Crisis*.
Transaction. Electronic version to be distributed.

Oct. 26 ***Housing and Financial Crisis***

Critical Review Symposium “Causes of the Financial Crisis.” Vol. 21 No. 2/3

Nov. 2 ***Drugs and Alcohol***

Leitzel, Chapters 1 through 8.

Thornton, M. “The Repeal of Prohibition.” In *The Economics of Prohibition*. Will hand out hard copy in class.

Nov. 9 ***The Market for Regulation***

Boettke, Peter (2010) “Is the only form of ‘reasonable regulation’ self regulation?: Lessons from Lin Ostrom on regulating the commons and cultivating citizens.” *Public Choice*.

Coase, Ronald (1960) “The Problem of Social Cost.” *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Klein, Daniel (2001) “The Demand for and Supply of Assurance.” Available at:

http://econfaculty.gmu.edu/klein/PdfPapers/assurance_chap.pdf

Stringham, Edward (2003) “The Extralegal Development of Securities Trading in Seventeenth Century Amsterdam.” *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance* 43(2): 321-344.

Nov. 16 ***Research Workshop***

Nov. 30 ***Monopoly & Antitrust***

Viscusi et al. Chapters 3 & 4.

Armentano Chapters 1 & 2.

Kovacic, W. and Shapiro, C. (2000) “Antitrust Policy: A Century of Economic and Legal Thinking.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 15: 43-60.

Dec. 7 ***Historical Perspective, Mergers, PD and Tying***

Armentano Chapters 3 & 4.

DiLorenzo, T. (1985) “Origins of Antitrust: An Interest Group Perspective.” *International Review of Law and Economics* 5: 73-90.

Viscusi et al. Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 9.

Armentano Chapter 6, 7, 8, & 9.

FINAL EXAM & Research Presentations December 15th 5:40pm-7:30pm