

IEL 2007

SYLLABUS (Comparative law and economics - 12 hours)

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Comparative law and economics is a rather new discipline located at the frontiers of contemporary legal research. This innovative scholarly paradigm - combining the analytical tools of adjoining and complementary social sciences in order to develop a critical approach to legal rules and institutions -conveys a distinctive European perspective on the theory and practice of law and economics. In the age of globalisation, the diffuse and substantial lack of comparative understanding within the legal community brings about a serious challenge to the epistemological validity of the traditional economic analysis of law. Comparative law and economics treats the legal and institutional backgrounds as dynamic variables and attempts to build models which reflect the ever changing layered complexity of the real world of the law, broadening the horizon of the underlying legal discourse and conferring a higher degree of realism to the theoretical analysis. After a general introduction, the course will deal with specific applications in the areas of contract law, property law and the law of torts.