UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Center for Law and Economics
November, 2009

Empirical Methods in Law

Professor Thomas S. Ulen

This short course will explain one of the most important tools you will need for legal research—the ability to understand, evaluate, and do empirical research. You do not need to have any background in mathematics, statistics, or econometrics. The course will be entirely self-contained.

All the readings are from JENNIFER K. ROBBENNOLT, ROBERT M. LAWLESS, & THOMAS S. ULEN, EMPIRICAL METHODS IN LAW (2010) and are available in electronic format. The readings are given in the syllabus below; there will also be homework assignments for each class.

The class meetings will be from 11:00 to 13:00 hours each day from Monday, November 2, through Friday, November 6. From Monday through Thursday we will be in the University of Amsterdam, Faculty of Economics, Room E0.06 and in Room E0.07 on Friday.

Monday, November 2

JENNIFER K. ROBBENNOLT, ROBERT M. LAWLESS, & THOMAS S. ULEN, EMPIRICAL METHODS IN LAW (2010) (hereafter RLU): Introduction to Part I, Chapter 1 ("Thinking Empirically") and Chapter 2 ("Research Design").

Tuesday, November 3

RLU, Introduction to Part II, Chapter 3 ("Asking Questions: Surveys and Interviews") and Chapter 4 ("Experiments").

Wednesday, November 4

RLU, Chapter 6 ("Sampling") and Chapter 7 ("Coding").

Thursday, November 5

RLU, Introduction to Part III, Chapter 11 ("An Introduction to Correlation and Regression Analysis") and Chapter 12 ("Specialized Regression Techniques").

Friday, November 6

RLU, Chapter 13 ("Communicating Your Results: Writing About and Presenting Empirical Results") and Chapter 14 ("Conclusion").