E/M 281 Government and Business  
Fall, 2011  
Larry Wohl, Beck Hall 161  
Phone: 7453 (office); 934-4041 (home); E-mail: law@gac.edu  
Office Hours: 9:150-9:50, MTWRF and 2:30-3:30, MTWR, and by appointment  

       E/M 281 Course Pack Supplement Antitrust and Regulation Cases  

This course examines the success of the marketplace in promoting social welfare, and the attempts of government to correct perceived market deficiencies through antitrust and regulatory policies. In the past thirty years or so, we have gone through a cycle where blanket criticism of "big government" has followed a period in which many blamed most of our problems on "big business". Indications seem to suggest that pendulum may now again be swinging back in the other direction, following financial scandals such as Enron, the sub-prime mortgage crisis, $4.00 gasoline, the BP oil spill in the Gulf, and so on.  

One goal of this course is to present a balanced analysis of government policy and business practices without subscribing to the ideological positions of either of their supporters or detractors. I expect each of you to be able to make your own informed judgment on various issues we examine, even if we encounter major disagreements in the discussion. But not all opinions are equally valid—you need to be able to clearly articulate your positions, and defend them against those of critics. Even if you and I disagree on an issue, I’ll gladly entertain a persuasive case for your position that goes well beyond political and ideological rhetoric and indicates a good understanding of opposing viewpoints.  

The format of the course will periodically rely heavily on class discussion of assigned cases from the course pack (many of which are also summarized in VVH). For the two major sections of the course, antitrust and regulation, we will trace the development of the law to gain an appreciation for the workings of the law and how it changes over time, and for the integration of economic analysis into law.  

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to examine a particular government policy and make some determination as to whether it represents a successful or unsuccessful attempt to promote social welfare, or a piece of special interest legislation that unquestionably decreases social welfare. You should also have a good understanding of how policies are implemented and enforced, and of the types of business conduct and/or environments that are apt to invite government intervention. In addition, you will be aware of and understand the theoretical and political reasons behind economic and social regulation, why the emphasis has shifted towards deregulation in many markets, and likely consequences of that shift.  

Class will normally meet Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; however, there are a number of conflicts throughout the semester that will prevent us from meeting on a given day or require us to "make-up" lost time, so keep Thursdays open on your schedules, and our off day, when we have one, may sometimes vary. I will try to announce any deviations from the ‘normal’ schedule on Mondays of each week.  

Grading:  
First midterm: 75 points  
Second and third midterms: 100 points each  
Principles review take-home: 25 points  
Homework: 50 points  
In-class quizzes: 25 points  
Class discussion/participation: 50 points  
Comprehensive final exam: 125 points  
550 total points  

I don't use a set grading scale because the scores depend on the difficulty of the exams and the grading, as well as on your performance. I will announce an approximate curve after each exam so that you can keep track of where you stand, and anytime after midterm, you should feel free to ask me about approximately where you stand in the course (before midterm, I probably have no idea).
**Late homework assignments will not be accepted** unless prior arrangements have been made with me if there is some reason you cannot complete the work on time. Homework points may include in-class quizzes, which cannot be made up if you miss them. If you are unable to take an exam when it is scheduled, it is your responsibility to contact me beforehand (or afterwards with a verifiable medical excuse). Exams are given at night due to their duration (roughly 2 hours), and I will be as flexible as possible with scheduling conflicts. Please check the dates of scheduled exams, and notify me several days before if you will have a conflict so we can work out an alternative time. Class participation will be graded based on your responses to questions asked in class on assigned material, as well as your contributions to class discussion. We will cover a large number of cases, assigned several days in advance, and you will be called upon regularly to discuss assigned cases.

Gustavus has adopted an Honor Code, which you all agreed to abide by when registering. The following statement is to appear on every graded paper: "On my honor, I pledge that I have not given, received, nor tolerated others’ use of unauthorized aid in completing this work." Although I have never needed to implement it, I inform you now that my policy is to give a zero on the first offense, and flunk anyone caught cheating or using someone else's work on exams or homework a second time. On homework assignments, I expect the work you turn in to be your own, but you are encouraged to work with others unless specifically asked not to do so. Homework assignments are intended to help your preparation for exams, so you need to be able to do the work independently. At the same time, you can learn a lot from each other, and I think it is important to take advantage of that opportunity.

Gustavus Adolphus College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or you think you may have a disability of any nature) and, as a result, need reasonable academic accommodation to participate in class, take tests or benefit from the College’s services, then you should speak with the Disability Services Coordinator, for a confidential discussion of your needs and appropriate plans. Course requirements cannot be waived, but reasonable accommodations may be provided based on disability documentation and course outcomes. Accommodations cannot be made retroactively; therefore, to maximize your academic success at Gustavus, please contact Disability Services as early as possible. Disability Services (https://gustavus.edu/advising/disability/) is located in the Advising and Counseling Center. Disability Services Coordinator Laurie Bickett (lbickett@gustavus.edu or x6286) can provide further information.

Support for English Language Learners (ELL) and Multilingual students is available via the College’s ELL Support staff person, Andrew Grace (agrace@gustavus.edu or x7395). He can meet individually with students to consult about academic tasks and to help students seek other means of support. The ELL Support person can also consult with faculty members who have ELL and multilingual students enrolled in their classes. The College’s ELL staff person can provide students with a letter to a professor that explains and supports academic accommodations (e.g. additional time on tests, additional revisions for papers). Professors make decisions based on those recommendations at their own discretion. In addition, ELL and multilingual students can seek help from peer tutors in the Writing Center. Questions about these policies can be directed to Barbara Knight Kaiser, Associate Provost and Dean Academic Programs (kaiser@gustavus.edu or x7541).

Since each class is somewhat different in how quickly they work through and grasp the material, especially as discussion of the cases develops, the schedule that follows is approximate. However, we will stick fairly close to it and try to keep exams on the dates noted. Specific reading assignments will be announced in class.

**Tentative Schedule**

- **Weeks 1-4 (9/6, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26)** Introduction and review; Chapter 1 and parts of chapters 3-6 in [VVH] and other assigned material
  - **Exam #1 tentatively scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, September 28**

- **Weeks 4-9 (9/29, 10/3/, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31)** Antitrust policy; parts of earlier chapters plus 7-9 in [VVH], course pack cases
  - **Exam #2, tentatively scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, November 2**

- **Weeks 9-12 (11/3, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21)** Economic regulation, Chapters 2, 10-12, 15-18 (selectively) in [VVH], course pack cases
  - **Exam #3, tentatively scheduled for the evening of Monday, November 28**

- **Weeks 13-15 (11/29, 12/5, 12/12)** Social regulation, selected topics of mutual interest, part III in [VVH] plus course pack cases

- **Final Exam tentatively scheduled for 10:30 am, Monday, December 19 (may be changed to take-home)**