

First Term Essay Assignment
Economics of Law, Policy and Organization
SOSC 2330 9.0

Course Director: Richard Wellen

Due Date: December 6, 2006
Value: 15%

Instructions: Write a 1500-2000 word essay (5-7 pages) on one of the following questions. Unless otherwise instructed, please use only readings from the course kit and be sure to include parenthetical references to relevant sections of the readings. You should also have a separate title page and please remember to number your pages.

The paper may be handed in directly to your tutorial leader (by the due date) or on Wednesday, December 6 in S770 Ross from 10-12, 1-3p.m.

1. What are the arguments and conclusions of the economists' critique of zoning? Why does Karkkainen take issue with their critique? Who is right? Please only use assigned readings from the course.
2. Explain and evaluate the 'law and economics' approach to disputes about nuisances or policies regarding negative externalities such as pollution? Be sure to mention and compare relevant approaches such those suggested by Pigou, Coase or Posner .You may also use any of the three readings on the topic of market-based approaches to pollution posted on the 'links' page.
3. Do you find the 'law and economics' approach compelling? Please explain your answer by either developing a critique, or defending the law and economics against its critics. In either case, it is recommended that you use the readings by Coleman, Dworkin and Braithwaite (in addition to any other course readings you find appropriate).