Course Description: This course surveys the legal, economic and policy framework that governs American business. In doing so, it examines the core principles that guide our economy and, against the backdrop of the proposition that non-regulated markets are generally preferred, introduces a number of areas of regulation including antitrust, securities, environmental, patents, advertising/information and consumer protection. We will critically examine economic rationales, legal ground rules and regulatory models. One objective will be to gain a good understanding of how government intervention has actually played out in selected markets. We will also examine markets that, though once regulated, have since been deregulated.


Reading Assignments and Class Participation: You are expected to have studied the Readings prior to class and be prepared to discuss them in class. I will divide up the class into groups, each of which will lead particular class discussions. 25% of the grade will be class participation.

Paper: A paper is required as part of this course. You may pick the paper topic, which should address an area of interest to you that is fairly within the scope of the course. Proposed paper topics are to be submitted to me by the start of class at 1:15 pm on September 23, 2008. Please feel free to consult with me prior to such date about possible topics. A non-exclusive list of possible paper topics is attached to this syllabus. The paper itself should not exceed 3,000 words including footnotes, and is due by the start of class at 1:15 pm on December 2, 2008. Late submissions will not be accepted. 25% of the grade will be the paper.

Class Times: Classes will meet on Tuesdays at 2:25-4:05 pm in Room 306. See the Class Schedule following.

Office Hours: During term, my office hours are on Wednesdays at 4-5 pm in Room 410. I may also be contacted by email (yk@colorado.edu) or phone (303-492-7303) to arrange a meeting at other times.
Grading: The grade for this course will be based on a final examination (50%), to be held on December 12, 2008 at 1:15 pm in Room 306, a paper (25%) and class participation (25%).

Course Schedule: The course will include 14 classes during the fall semester, 2008. See the Class Schedule following.

Government Regulation of Business

Class Schedule
Fall, 2008

Background


Antitrust


**Regulation of Economy**


**The Future**

The following is a list of possible paper topics for your consideration. The list is not intended to be exclusive or exhaustive. Rather, the questions presented are intended to be suggestive of the types of issues and areas that may be addressed in your paper. You should choose a question of interest to you which is fairly within the scope of the course. The paper should not exceed 3,000 words including footnotes. If you have questions about a possible paper topic, please feel free to discuss them with me before the due date for proposed paper topics, which is September 23, 2008 at the start of class at 1:15 pm. I will confirm with you thereafter that the topic you have chosen is acceptable. The paper itself is due by the start of class at 1:15 pm on December 2, 2008. Late submissions will not be accepted.

1. What are the economic costs and benefits of the *per se* rule?

2. The EU has recently taken Microsoft to task; is this wrong-thinking?

3. Have patents actually aided the societal goal of increasing inventive activity and the economic goal of providing incentive to invest in such activity?

4. In the context of environmental regulation and climate change, is governmental reallocation of property rights and minimizing of transaction costs an efficient approach?

5. What blog regulation should the FEC engage in and why?

6. Have the costs of Sarbanes-Oxley outweighed the benefits?

7. What should we make of all the state and local level anti-Wal-Mart legislation? Does it make economic sense?

8. The oil price shocks of the 1970’s led to regulation of domestic crude oil prices. With the meteoric recent rise in crude oil prices, is it time for price ceilings once again?

9. What industry is an obvious one for deregulation and why?