Professor Kevin Werbach
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Office Hours: Monday 12-1; Wednesday 9:30-10:30

Course Overview: This course is an introduction to law and the legal process. It will help you understand how legal systems work, how lawyers and judges think, how social values impact the way laws are interpreted, and how legal rules evolve to cover new situations.

Materials: All readings are contained in a Bulk Pack that you can obtain from Wharton Reprographics, in the basement of Steinberg-Dietrich Hall. Additional handouts will be provided during the semester. It is important that you do the reading before each class, so that you can participate in the discussion.

Grading: This is an honors section, so it involves a substantial written and oral presentation component. Grading will be based on two research papers (20% each), one formal oral presentation (20%), a final exam (25%), and class participation (15%).

Papers: The papers (5-10 double-spaced pages each) will be based on course subjects and materials, but will ordinarily require some research outside the bulkpack readings. Paper topics must be approved by the professor. Please note – (1) Papers may not be rewritten, and no extra credit will be given; (2) Plagiarism is taken very seriously, and you should consult with me if you have any questions; and (3) Any extensions of deadlines must be requested before the papers are due.

Oral Presentation: The oral presentation will take the form of a mock trial. Students will be divided into teams, and asked to prepare and present an argument on a pending case in Federal Court. The presentation will last 5-10 minutes, and will be before a “moot court” comprised of 2-3 judges. While written briefs from the case will be provided, students will be expected to do some external research. Upper-level law students will mentor students in the preparation of oral arguments.

Final Exam: The final exam is currently scheduled for Thursday, December 15th, 9:00-11:00am. It will include short answer and essay questions.

Class Participation: Class participation is taken seriously, and is not the same as attendance. You will be evaluated based on the quality of your participation and the extent to which it demonstrates preparation for the course. Completion of ungraded in-class assignments will also be counted towards class participation.

Webcafé and Listserv I will distribute lecture slides and other materials on the course Webcafé site: <https://webcafe.wharton.upenn.edu/eRoom/lgst/101-fa05-1>. If you are not a Wharton student, you first need to sign up for a computer account at <http://accounts.wharton.upenn.edu/>. The course also has an email listserv at <lgst101-301-05c@lists.upenn.edu>. I will use this occasionally for announcements. Please do not send messages to the class-wide list without asking me first.
SCHEDULE

September 7  Class 1: Course Introduction
September 12 Class 2: Jurisprudence: What is Law?
September 14 Class 3: Personal Property
September 19 Class 4: Intellectual Property
September 21 Class 5: Intellectual “Property”?
September 26 Class 6: Real Property
September 28 Class 7: Privacy and the Fourth Amendment
October 3   Class 8: Privacy in the Modern World
October 5   Class 9: Torts
October 10 Class 10: Legal Process and Civil Procedure
             First paper due
October 12 Class 11: The Jury
October 17 NO CLASS (Fall Break)
October 19 Class 12: Contracts – Introduction
October 24 Class 13: Contracts – Consideration
October 26 Class 14: Contracts – Offer
October 31 Class 15: Contracts – Acceptance
             Second paper due
November 2  Class 16: Contracts – Revocation
November 7  Class 17: Contracts – Simulated Negotiation
November 9  Class 18: Contracts – Introduction to Remedies
November 14 Class 19: Contracts – Monetary Damages
November 16 Class 20: Contracts – PayPal Case Study
November 21 Class 21: Promissory Liability
November 23 Class 22: Electronic Commerce
November 28 Class 23: Moot Court Overview
November 30 Class 24: MOOT PREPARATION
December 5  Class 25: MOOT PREPARATION
December 7  Class 26: Course Review and Wrap-Up

Moot Court Presentation – Time and Place TBD