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. The first part of the course surveys the ways judges think about the law using a variety of topics across the landscape of the law. The second part of the course focuses in depth on contract law so you can understand how the legal doctrine develops in a specific area that is critical to business. The final classes treat a subject that will be selected by your instructor based on the instructor’s special expertise and interests.

The readings are contained in a Bulk Pack you can obtain from Wharton Reprographics. The reading materials for this course have recently been extensively revised; therefore the purchase of used copies of bulk-packs from previous semesters is not recommended!

There will be one outside speaker scheduled at a time and place to be announced. Attendance is mandatory and a question related to this speaker will be on the final exam.

Grading will be based on a mid-term and a final exam.

CLASS TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

January 9 Class 1 Course Introduction

11 Class 2 Jurisprudence: How Do Judges Decide Cases?

18 Class 3 The Law of Personal Property: What is Possession?

January  25  Class 5 Real Property: Rights and Constitutional Constraints

30  Class 6 Privacy and the Fourth Amendment

February  1  Class 7 Privacy and the Law in Daily Life

6  Class 8 Torts

8  Class 9 Civil Procedure

13  Class 10 The Jury System

15  Class 11 Contract Law – Introduction and the Need for a Writing

20  MID-TERM EXAM

22  Class 12 The Bargain Theory: Consideration

27  Class 13 The Bargain Theory: Offer

March  1  Class 14 The Bargain Theory: Acceptance

13  Class 15 The Bargain Theory: Termination of the Power of Acceptance (Option Contracts)

15  Class 16 Remedies for Breach of Contract: Specific Performance

20  Class 17 Remedies for Breach of Contract: Expectation Damages

22  Class 18 Remedies for Breach of Contract: Reliance and Restitution

27  Class 19 Limitations on Remedies for Breach of Contract
March 29  Class 20 Promissory Liability Outside the Bargain Model

April 3  Class 21 Third-Party Beneficiaries I

April 5  Class 22 Third-Party Beneficiaries II

April 10 Class 23 Agency Law I

April 12 Class 24 Agency Law II

April 17 Class 25 Agency Law III

April 19 Review of the course

May 27 (Thursday) 9:00-11:00 AM Final Examination
          (Location to be announced)