

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
WHARTON SCHOOL**

**INTRODUCTION TO LAW & THE LEGAL PROCESS
LGST 101, Fall 2006**

Time/Location: Monday and Wednesday 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Instructor: Stephanie A. Tryce

Office: 634 Huntsman Hall

Phone/Voicemail: 215.573-0626

E-Mail: stryce@wharton.upenn.edu

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Course Materials: Course Pack

Supplementary materials will be distributed throughout the semester either as a handout or by e-mail. Please be certain to check your e-mail everyday.

Course Overview: This course provides a basic foundation for the further study of law. As tomorrow's business leaders, it is important to understand the legal implication of your actions. The course is divided into two parts. The first part will provide you with a fundamental knowledge of the legal process in the United States and will survey some procedural and substantive areas of the law including, civil procedure, civil law, property law, torts and constitutional law. The second part of the course will concentrate on contracts. You will learn how contracts are formed, regulated and what remedies are available in the event of a breach of contract.

Course Objectives: This course will provide you with a broad perspective of the American Legal System and its impact on the marketplace. At the conclusion of this course the student will have the intellectual and practical skills to be able to:

- Understand the internal and external effect that law has on business.
- Identify and critically analyze legal issues arising in a business context.
- Understand the impact of legal decisions and appreciate the importance of risk management and liability protection.
- Be better equipped to create management policy solutions for legal challenges facing the business industry.

Attendance: To successfully achieve the goals of this course, attendance is required. Attendance will be taken during each class meeting. Students are responsible for making up missed work and in the event of an extended absence, to keep me informed as to their progress in the course. All requests for excused absences should be in writing and include documentation. The written statement should include date of absence, reason for absence, date of submission and signature and documentation. If you know in advance that you will have to miss a significant number of classes due to athletic participation or other commitments, you should consider taking this class in an upcoming semester.

Students are permitted **three (3) unexcused** absences per semester. Any unexcused absences above the allotted amount will reduce your attendance grade.

Class Participation: You are to be prepared for every class. Assignments listed are to be read prior to attending class. This course will be taught using a lecture/discussion format along with the case study method, so class participation is crucial. **Attendance is not participation.** The quality of participation, as reflected in careful reading and thorough analysis of the cases and case problems is important and will be reflected in your final grade. The case method also requires attentive listening, as it is important to build upon each other's comments. Students will be called upon at random and the quality and consistency of their response is the basis for the participation grade along with any assignments. Students are encouraged to discuss the adequacy of their participation with the professor.

Assignments: Assignments should be handed in at the beginning of class. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Exams/Quiz: There will be one quiz and two exams. Students should make every effort to take the exam during the regularly scheduled time. If you have a conflict, a written request to make up the exam must be given to me at least two weeks prior to the scheduled time. If an emergency arises which renders it impossible for you to make the exam, please notify me prior to the start of the exam. If you cannot reach me, a message must be left by e-mail, and/or by contacting someone at the main office.

NOTE: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Action will be taken against students committing academic dishonesty in accordance with the procedures in the current Code of Academic Integrity.

Grading

Participation/Attendance	15% (10% and 5% respectively)
Quiz	15%
Mid-Term Exam	30%
Final Exam	40%

Grade Scale for Quiz, Midterm and Final Grade

A	93-100
B	83-92.5
C	73-82.5
D	63-72.5
F	Below 63

Grade Scale for Course

A+	97-100
A	93-96.5
B+	89-92.5
B	83-88.5
C+	79-82.5
C	73-78.5
D+	69-72.5
D	63-68.5
F	Below 63

Briefing Cases

Cases should be briefed before coming to class. A case brief gives you an organized approach to analyzing the case. Case briefs should be no more than one page in length. Briefing cases forces you to cut the facts and reasoning down to a manageable size. Using it will make it easier for you to recall the facts and legal issues in the case for class discussion. It also allows you to better compare and distinguish the case from others you are studying. Lastly, a case brief will provide a convenient study aid when preparing for a quiz or reviewing for an exam.

Please note: If you have trouble briefing the cases with the edited versions in your textbook, please pull the full case. This can be done by using the library system: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/cgi-bin/res/sr.cgi?community=43&>. It will help clear up confusion with the facts or law. In addition, if a law is cited in the case that you are not familiar with, please look it up.

OUTLINE FOR THE CASE BRIEF Plaintiff v. Defendant or Appellant v. Appellee

FACTS: Concisely state the facts, which are essential to the controversy in the case.

DECISION(S) BELOW: State the decision made at the lower court level(s). Only necessary when reading an appellate court decision.

ISSUE(S): State the question(s) before the court. It is best to list the issues in the form of a question.

HOLDING: State the court's decision. Basically, here you should answer the questions posed in issue section above.

RULE OF LAW: General principles of law, objectively stated.

RATIONALE: State the court's reasoning for the decision. This is the most detailed section of the brief, as you are discussing the court's justification for its holding (ruling).

Tentative Assignment Schedule

Below, you will find an outline of topic to be covered. This outline is merely a guide, as it is subject to change depending on class discussions. It may also be modified when prompted by relevant current events.

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

	Topic
9/6	Course Introduction
9/11	Jurisprudence
9/13	Legal Process and Civil Procedure
9/18	Legal Process and Civil Procedure
9/25	Personal Property
9/27	Intellectual Property
10/2	Real Property
10/4	QUIZ (closed book/closed notes)
10/9	Privacy and the 4th Amendment
10/11	Privacy and the 4th Amendment
10/16	Privacy in Daily Life
10/18	Privacy in Daily Life
10/25	Negligence
10/30	Negligence
11/1	Jury Simulation
11/6	Jury Simulation Discussion
11/8	MIDTERM (closed book& notes)
11/13	Contracts: Mutual Assent
11/15	Conduct Invalidating Assent
11/20	Consideration
11/22	Legality of Subject/Capacity
11/27	Contracts in Writing
11/29	Perform, Breach& Discharge
12/4	Remedies
12/6	Course Conclusion