

**INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND THE LEGAL PROCESS
LEGAL STUDIES 101 - Spring 2012**

The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

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Office Hours: Mondays, 2:00-3:30pm, JMHH 650. You may also email me to schedule another time to meet.

OVERVIEW: This course provides an introduction to the study of law and the legal process. It critically explores the role of law in modern society, providing an overview of basic functional areas, including the nature of law and competing values that inform legal decision-making, an overview of the American system of legal process, a brief “mini-course” in the substantive law of contracts, and coverage of other selected topics of legal interest.

MATERIALS: Course readings will be available at <https://www.study.net>, with an option to purchase a hard-copy coursepack. I may add additional readings over the course of the semester. If you are not a Wharton student, you can go to <http://accounts.wharton.upenn.edu> to request a Wharton Computing Account so that you can access study.net and the webCafe. Slides will be posted on webCafe prior to each class.

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE: I am often, but not always, on email. Therefore, to make sure that you get any information you need well before deadlines, please email me at least 24 hours before you need an answer, want to set up a meeting, etc.

CLASS ETIQUETTE & COMPUTER POLICY: Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to have read the assigned materials. Technology allows us to be connected almost anywhere and anytime. However, there are times when it is most productive *not* to be electronically connected. Class sessions are one such time. During class sessions, please turn off your laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices. Please print out all assigned materials and notes before coming to class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Informed class participation is an important part of the class. Your grade will be based on attendance, preparation, and quality contributions to discussions. I will use the Socratic method (used in most law school courses) and call on students at random to discuss assigned readings. Multiple absences will hurt your participation grade by preventing you from participating in class.

COURSE FORMAT: The course combines lecture, Socratic dialogue, and group discussion. Active class participation is expected, so please come prepared to discuss the readings.

GRADING:

- Class Preparation, Participation, and Attendance – 20%
- Midterm exam – 35%
- Final exam – 45%

MIDTERM: The midterm exam will take place during class on February 29th. There will be no makeup exams offered, so make sure that you have no conflicts with this date before you commit to the course. The exam will be closed notes and consist of true/false questions, short answers, and essay questions. Questions will often involve a factual scenario where you will be asked to identify and apply the appropriate legal principles and explain how the issue should be resolved.

The exam will cover all assigned readings and class discussions up to February 29th. I will pass out practice midterm questions and review them prior to the exam. Answers to the practice problems will also be posted on webCafe.

FINAL: The final has been scheduled by the registrar for May 1st, from 6-8pm. It will be closed notes and consist of short answers, problems, and essay questions. It will only cover material since the midterm. We will review practice problems in contracts throughout the second half of the class.

If you cannot attend an exam, then you must contact me *in advance* and provide documentation as to why you will not be able to attend. In general, excused absences are given only for serious health issues or family emergencies. If you are granted an excused absence from the midterm, then the final exam will count for 80% of your final grade. If you are granted an excused absence from the final exam, then you will take a make-up exam during the university's scheduled make-up exam period in early September 2012.

**INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND THE LEGAL PROCESS
SYLLABUS**

Jan. 11	Welcome and Course Overview; Discussion of <i>Sturges v. Bridgman</i>
Jan. 18	Introduction to Law
Jan. 23	Jurisprudence and Legal Reasoning
Jan. 25	Legal Process and Civil Procedure
Jan. 30	The Jury
Feb. 1	Property Law: Personal Property
Feb. 6	Intellectual Property
Feb. 8	** (Tentative) Guest Lecture on Litigation by Eli Gabay, Partner with at Solomon, Sherman, and Gabay, and former Assistant District Attorney
Feb. 13	Real Property and Constitutional Law
Feb. 15	Privacy and the Fourth Amendment
Feb. 20	Privacy in Daily Life
	**Practice Midterm Problems Distributed
Feb. 22	Torts
Feb. 27	Review Practice Midterm Problems and Answer Questions
Feb. 29	MIDTERM EXAM (IN CLASS)
Mar. 12	Introduction to Public International Law
Mar. 14	International and Foreign Law and the U.S. Constitution
Mar. 19	Human Rights Law and International Business
Mar. 21	Introduction to Contracts and the Need for Writing
Mar. 26	Consideration
Mar. 28	Mutual Assent and the Offer

Apr. 2 Acceptance
Apr. 4 Termination of the Power of Acceptance
Apr. 9 Remedies for Breach: Specific Performance
Apr. 11 Remedies for Breach: Damages
Apr. 16 Limitations to Contract Remedies
Apr. 18 Beyond Contract: Promissory Estoppel, Unconscionability, Duress, & Illegality
Apr. 23 Review Session

May 1, 6-8pm: FINAL EXAM.

Optional Sessions

Thursday, Feb. 16, 7:00pm Screening of “Hot Coffee” Movie and Discussion Panel

Thursday, Mar. 1, 7:00pm LGST 101 Speaker (to be announced)