

**Introduction to Law and Legal Process  
Legal Studies 101**

LGST 101-006  
F65 JMHH  
T/TH 1:30pm to 2:50pm

LGST 101-301  
G86 JMHH  
T/TH 10:30am -11:50am

Prof. William S. Laufer  
Department of Legal Studies and Business Ethics  
670 Huntsman Hall  
215.898.1166  
[lauferw@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:lauferw@wharton.upenn.edu)

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to law and legal process with a particular focus on criminal law, constitutional law, tort law, and contract law.

**Course Materials**

Cases and materials will be posted and distributed on Canvas.

**Course Requirements**

**Cases:** Examinations and quizzes will require references to and analysis of all assigned cases, statutes, and other assigned materials whether or not discussed during class.

**Case Briefs:** All assigned cases should be briefed in preparation for class.

**Class Contribution:** Students will be expected to add value to class discussions..

**Electronic Devices:** In order to ensure your full attention and engagement, please do not use any electronic devices during class, including laptop computers, tablets, cell phones—any device with an on/off switch.

**Examinations:** I will administer unannounced quizzes, graded class exercises, and a mid-term examination (open book and open notes) this semester. In addition, there will be a final examination (open book and open notes) during the regularly scheduled examination period at the end of the semester.

**Moot Court Exercises:** Early in the semester the class will be divided into moot court teams. Each team will participate in a moot court exercise (thirty-minute argument, and a ten-minute rebuttal), as petitioner or respondent. Exercises will be held outside of regularly scheduled class time in the moot courtroom at Penn Law School, or in room to be assigned in Huntsman Hall. The competition will be graded on the basis of persuasiveness, analytic rigor, creativity, accuracy, and responsiveness. The dates of these exercises will be determined by finding the most convenient times for all parties.

Moot Court Cases (2013-14): *Daimler Chrysler Ag v. Bauman* (set for oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court on October 15, 2013); *Burrage v. United States* (set for oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court on November 12, 2013); *Fernandez v. California* (set for oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court on November 13, 2013); *Lawson v. FMR, LLC* (set for oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court on November 12, 2013); *Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action* (set for oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court on October 15, 2013). Petitioner, respondent, and amicus briefs for these cases will be made available on Canvas.

**Office Hours:** Please contact me via email ([lauferw@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:lauferw@wharton.upenn.edu)) to set up times to meet.

### **Grading**

Final grades, consisting of class contribution/participation (20%), a mid-term examination (40%), and a final examination (40%), will be adjusted to conform to an acceptable distribution.

### **Class Schedule**

<b>Week:</b>	<b>Topic/Reading Assignment</b>
9/3	<b>Course Introduction</b> (Article: Choosing Equal Injustice)
	<b>Introduction to Criminal Law</b> ( <i>Keeler v. Superior Court</i> ; <i>United States v. Foster</i> )
	<b>Introduction to Constitutional Law</b> ( <i>McCleskey v. Kemp</i> ; <i>Tennessee v. Garner</i> )

9/10	<p><b>Introduction to Tort Law</b>  <i>(Cohen v. Petty; Spano v. Perini Corporation; Lubitz v. Wells)</i></p> <p><b>Introduction to Contract Law</b>  <i>(Trump v. Maher; Vokes v. Arthur Murray, Inc.; Hopper v. All Pet Animal Clinic)</i></p>
9/17	<p><b>Introduction to the Legal System; Jurisprudence</b></p> <p><b>Criminal Law Cases I</b>  Principles of Punishment; Criminal Statutes</p> <p><b>Criminal Law Cases II</b>  Actus Reus; Mens Rea</p>
9/24	<p><b>Criminal Law Cases III</b>  Causation; Criminal Homicide</p> <p><b>Criminal Law Cases IV</b>  Corporate Criminal Liability and Sanctions</p>
10/1	<p><b>Constitutional Law Cases I</b>  Federal Judicial, Legislative, and Executive Powers; Protection of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; First Amendment Protections</p> <p><b>Constitutional Law Cases II</b>  Fourth Amendment Protections</p>
10/8	<p><b>Constitutional Law Cases III</b>  Eighth Amendment Protections</p>
10/15	<p><b>Tort Law Cases I</b>  Intentional Torts</p> <p><b>Tort Law Cases II</b>  Negligence and Strict Liability</p>
10/22	<p><b>Tort Law Cases III</b>  Products Liability</p> <p>MID-TERM EXAMINATION</p>

10/29	<b>Contract Law Cases I</b> Bases for Enforcing Promises
	<b>Contract Law Cases II</b> The Bargaining Process
11/5	<b>Contract Law Cases III</b> Policing the Bargain
	<b>Contract Law Cases IV</b> Policing the Bargain
11/12	<b>Contract Law Cases V</b> Remedies for Breach
	<b>Contract Law Cases VI</b> Finding the Law of the Contract
11/19	<b>Contract Law Cases V</b> Performance and Breach
	<b>Contract Law Cases VI</b> Mistakes
11/26	<b>Contract Law Cases VII</b> Impossibility, Impracticability, and Frustration
12/5	<b>Contract Law Cases VIII</b> Impossibility, Impracticability, and Frustration
	<b>Contract Law Cases IX</b> Alternative Dispute Resolution
12/10	Review
	FINAL EXAMINATION (cumulative)