

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

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**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 Participation:** Students will be expected to actively participate in class.

**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.

**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 participation (10%), a mid-term examination (40%), and a final examination (50%), will be adjusted to conform to an acceptable distribution.

### **Class Schedule**

<b>Week:</b>	<b>Topic/Reading Assignment</b>
9/1	<b>Introduction to Law</b> (Readings)  <b>Introduction to Criminal Law</b> <i>(Keeler v. Superior Court; United States v. Foster)</i>  <b>Introduction to Constitutional Law</b> <i>(McCleskey v. Kemp)</i>
9/8	<b>Introduction to Tort Law</b> <i>(Cohen v. Petty; Spano v. Perini Corporation; Lubitz v. Wells)</i>  <b>Introduction to Contract Law</b> <i>(Trump v. Maher; Vokes v. Arthur Murray, Inc.; Hopper v. All Pet Animal Clinic)</i>
9/15	<b>Criminal Law Cases I</b> Principles of Punishment; Criminal Statutes  <b>Criminal Law Cases II</b> Actus Reus; Mens Rea
9/22	<b>Criminal Law Cases III</b> Causation; Criminal Homicide

	<b>Criminal Law Cases IV</b> Corporate Criminal Liability and Sanctions
9/29	<b>Constitutional Law Cases I</b> Federal Judicial, Legislative, and Executive Powers; Protection of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; First Amendment Protections
	<b>Constitutional Law Cases II</b> Fourth Amendment Protections
10/6	<b>Constitutional Law Cases III</b> Eighth Amendment Protections
10/13	<b>Tort Law Cases I</b> Intentional Torts
	<b>Tort Law Cases II</b> Negligence and Strict Liability
10/20	<b>Tort Law Cases III</b> Products Liability
	Mid-Term Examination
10/27	<b>Contract Law Cases I</b> Bases for Enforcing Promises
	<b>Contract Law Cases II</b> The Bargaining Process
11/3	<b>Contract Law Cases III</b> Policing the Bargain
	<b>Contract Law Cases IV</b> Policing the Bargain
11/10	<b>Contract Law Cases V</b> Remedies for Breach
	<b>Contract Law Cases VI</b> Finding the Law of the Contract
11/17	<b>Contract Law Cases V</b>

Performance and Breach

**Contract Law Cases VI**

Mistakes

11/24

**Contract Law Cases VII**

Impossibility, Impracticability, and Frustration

12/1

**Contract Law Cases VIII**

Impossibility, Impracticability, and Frustration

**Contract Law Cases IX**

Alternative Dispute Resolution

12/8

Review

Final Examination (cumulative)