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 Course Pack (CP) you can obtain online from study.net. 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!

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

CLASS TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

August  27  Class 1 Course Introduction
         CP: 1

September  3-8  Class 2 Jurisprudence: How Do Judges Decide Cases?
                 CP: 2-6

10  Class 3 The Law of Personal Property: What is Possession?
     CP: 7-13

15  Class 4 Intellectual Property
     CP: 14-20

17  Class 5 Real Property: Rights and Constitutional Constraints
     CP: 21-26
| September  | 22 | Class 6 Privacy and the Fourth Amendment  
CP: 27-32 |
| 24 | Class 7 Privacy and the Law in Daily Life  
CP: 33-39 |
| 29 | Class 8 Torts  
CP: 40-42 |
| October  | 1 | Class 9 Civil Procedure  
CP: 43-47 |
| 6 | Class 10 The Jury System  
CP: 48-52 |
| 8 | MID-TERM EXAM |
| 13 | Class 11 Contract Law – Introduction and the Need for a Writing  
CP: 53-57 |
| 15 | Class 12 The Bargain Theory: Consideration  
CP: 58 |
| 20 | Class 13 The Bargain Theory: Offer  
CP: 59 |
| 22 | Class 14 The Bargain Theory: Acceptance  
CP: 60 |
| 27 | Class 15 The Bargain Theory: Termination of the Power of Acceptance (Option Contracts)  
CP: 61-62 |
| 29 | Class 16 Remedies for Breach of Contract: Specific Performance  
CP: 63-65 |
| November  | 3 | Class 17 Remedies for Breach of Contract: Expectation Damages  
CP: 66-67 |
| 5 | Class 18 Remedies for Breach of Contract: Reliance and Restitution  
CP: 68-71 |
| 10 | Class 19 Limitations on Remedies for Breach of Contract  
CP: 72-75 |
| 12 | Class 20 Promissory Liability Outside the Bargain Model  
CP: 76-79 |
| 17 | Class 21 Third-Party Beneficiaries I  
CP: 80 |
November 19  Class 22 Third-Party Beneficiaries II
CP: 80

24  Class 23 Agency Law I
CP: 81

December 1  Class 24 Agency Law II
CP: 81

3  Class 25 Agency Law III
CP: 81

8  Review of Course

December 12  (Friday) 12 Noon - 2 PM Final Examination
(Location to be announced)