



DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL STUDIES AND BUSINESS ETHICS
LGST 101: INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND LEGAL PROCESS
Spring 2015

LGST 101-003

G50 JMHH

TR 03:00pm – 04:30pm

Professor Gwendolyn Gordon

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Office Hours: By appointment. Please contact me via email (gwgordon@wharton.upenn.edu) to set up a meeting time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to law and legal process with a particular focus on contract law, jurisprudence, and the impact of law on society. It will help you to understand how legal systems work, how lawyers and judges think, how social values impact the way the law is 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 upon contract law so that you can understand how legal doctrine develops in an area critical to business. The final classes revisit the relationships between the concepts covered thus far and social values.

TEXT AND READINGS

Most cases and materials will be available via Study.net (SN); occasionally, readings will be posted and distributed on Canvas (CN).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Cases:** examinations and assignments will require reference 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.
- **Examinations:** I will administer graded in-class exercises, a mid-term examination (open book and open notes), and a final examination (open book and open notes).

GRADING

Final grades, consisting of in-class contribution/participation (10%), a mid-term examination (40%), and a final examination (50%), will be adjusted to conform to an acceptable distribution.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Class will start and end on time.
- I will enter your name into a seating chart at the start of the second week of class.
- Computers, tablets, and other electronic devices may not be used in class. Yes, really.

COURSE OUTLINE

- Class 01- 01/15 - Course Introduction [SN **documents** 1-3/CP **pages** 9-34]
- Class 02 - 01/20 - Introduction to Property Law [SN 4/CP 35-44]
- Class 03 - 01/22 - Introduction to Constitutional Law [SN 5/ CP 45-50]
- Class 04 - 01/27 - Introduction to Tort law [SN 6/CP 51-56]
- Class 05 - 01/29 - Introduction to Contract Law [SN 7-9/CP 57-84]
- Class 06 - 02/03 - Introduction to the Legal System [SN 10-13/CP 85-122]
- Class 07 - 02/05 - Jurisprudence and Legal Reasoning [SN 14-17/CP 123-178]
- Class 08 - 02/10 - Property Law: possession and ownership [SN 18-20/CP 179-198]
- Class 09 - 02/12 - Property Law: personal property; real property [SN 21-23; 29/CP 199-216; 255-265]
- Class 10 - 02/17 - Property Law: intellectual property [SN 24-28/CP 217-252]
- Class 11 - 02/19 - Constitutional Law: privacy and the fourth amendment [SN 30-35/CP 269-310]
- Class 12 - 02/24 - Constitutional Law: privacy in daily life [SN 36-40/CP 313-342]
- Class 13 - 02/26 - Criminal Law I [Readings will be posted to Canvas]
- Class 14 - 03/03 - Criminal Law II [Readings will be posted to Canvas]
- **03/05 Mid-term examination**

[Spring Break 03/07 – 03/15]

- Class 15 - 03/17 - Tort law: intentional torts; negligence; strict liability [SN 41-42/CP 343-358 and readings posted on Canvas]
- Class 16 - 03/19 - Tort law: products liability [Readings will be posted on Canvas]
- Class 17 - 03/24 - Contracts: consideration [SN 43-45/CP 359-384]
- Class 18 - 03/26 - Contracts: offer [SN 46/CP 385-404 and readings posted on Canvas]
- Class 19 - 03/31 - Contracts: acceptance I [SN 47/CP 405-420 and readings posted on Canvas]
- Class 20 - 04/02 - Contracts: acceptance II; options [SN 48-49/CP 421-438]
- Class 21 - 04/07 - Contracts: promissory liability [SN 50-54/CP 439-468]
- Class 22 - 04/09 - Contracts: remedies [SN 55-60/CP 469-510]
- Class 23 - 04/14 - Contracts: remedies (continued)
- Class 24 - 04/16 - Contracts: limitations on remedies [SN 61-64/CP 511-540]
- Class 25 - 04/21 - Law and Society [Readings posted to Canvas]
- **[4/23 - This class meeting will be displaced to 4/29.]**
- Class 26 - 04/28 - Law and Society [Readings posted to Canvas]
- Class 27 - 04/29, 3:30pm to 5:00pm, location TBA - Review

Final Examination (Tentative):

- [05/07, 12:00pm - 02:00pm]