LGST 101-003
Fall 2015
INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND THE LEGAL PROCESS

Professor: Nichols
Office: 600 Huntsman Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 to noon
Office Phone: 898-9369

Assigned Reading: You must obtain a course pack through study.net/Wharton Reprographics. Please do the assigned reading before class, and please bring the bulk pack to class with you. This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor – in the event of a change you will be notified in class.

Grading: Class preparation, participation and attendance will count 30% of your grade. Class participation includes attending class, on time. Class participation also includes evidence of preparation, and thoughtful contribution to the class discussion. There will be one midterm exam counting 35% of your grade and a final exam counting 35% of your grade. The instructor will not sign drop forms after October 2.

TOPICAL ASSIGNMENTS

I. AN INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND LEGAL SYSTEMS

Aug. 26; Class 1: Introduction: What is Law?

Readings: 1. Introduction to Law
2. There are No Secret Books

Aug. 31; Class 2: What is International Law?

Reading: 3. Sources of International Law

Sept. 2; Class 3: Legal Reasoning

Readings: 4. An Introductory Note on Jurisprudence
5. The Case of the Speluncean Explorers

Sept. 9; Class 4: Property: Personal Property

Readings: 6. You are What You Own
7. Popov v. Hayashi
8. Swift v. Gifford
9. Keron v. Cashman

Sept. 14; Class 5: Property: Intellectual Property

Readings: 10. The Strategist’s Dream
11. Four Kinds of Intellectual Property in the United States
12. Company Isn’t Afraid to Take Copycats to Court
13. Suing Your Customers: A Winning Business Strategy?
14. DuPont deNemours v. Christopher

Sept. 16; Class 6: Property: Real Property

Readings: 15. Sturges v. Bridgman
17. Nome 2000 v. Fagerstrom
18. Constitutional Law

Sept. 21; Class 7: Privacy and the Fourth Amendment

Readings: 20. When Can the Police Conduct a Search and Seizure?
21. Search and Seizure
22. Dow Chemical v. United States
23. Kyllo v. United States
24. Bond v. United States

Sept. 23; Class 8: Privacy in Daily Life

26. McLain v. Boise Cascade
27. Falvo v. Owasso Independent School District
28. Reno v. Condon
29. Barriers to the Constitutional Right to Privacy: Patriot Act – Forgoing Liberty for Safety?

Sept. 28; Class 9: Crime

Reading: 30. Criminal Law

Sept. 30; Class 10: Intentional Torts

Reading: 31. Intentional Torts

Oct. 5; Class 11: Negligence

Readings: 32. Negligence and Strict Liability

Oct. 7; Class 12: What is law like?

Readings: 33. Your Day in Court – The Litigation Process
34. Sue First, Ask Questions Later
35. The Court System
36. The Adversarial System
Oct. 12; Class 13: The Adversarial System

Reading: 36. The Adversarial System

Oct. 14; Class 14: Review

Readings: everything so far

Oct. 19; Class 15: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

II. PRIVATE LAW: ENFORCING VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS

Oct. 21; Class 16: Property and Tort

Readings: to be delivered by email

Oct. 26; Class 17: Contract Law: Introduction and Need for Writing

Readings: 37. Introduction to Contracts
38. Steinberg v. Chicago Medical School
39. Contracts in Writing
40. Iacono v. Lyons

Oct. 28; Class 18: The Bargain Theory – Consideration

Reading: 41. Consideration – The Basic Concept

Nov. 2; Class 19: The Bargain Theory – Offer

Reading: 42. Intent to Contract: Offer and Acceptance

Nov. 4; Class 20: The Bargain Theory – Acceptance

Reading: 43. Acceptance

Nov. 9; Class 21: The Bargain Theory – Termination of Power of Acceptance

Readings: 44. Termination of the Power of Acceptance
45. Lyon v. Adgraphic

Nov. 11; Class 22: Remedies for Breach of Contract

Readings: 46. Remedies (From Contracts in a Nutshell)
47. McAllister v. Patton
48. Equitable Remedies

Nov. 16; Class 23: Remedies for Breach of Contract

Readings: 49. Remedies

Nov. 18; Class 24: Remedies Under the UCC
Readings: 50. Damages Under the Uniform Commercial Code
51. Laredo Hides v. H & H Meat Products
52. Seller’s Damages – Trading v. Teledyne

Nov. 23; Class 25: Limitations on Remedies for Breach of Contract

Readings: 53. A Note on Limitations to Contract Remedies
54. Ericson v. Playgirl
55. Fruend v. Washington Square Press
56. Parker v. Twentieth Century Fox

Nov. 30; Class 26: Promissory Estoppel

Readings: 57. A Note on Promissory Liability Outside the Bargain Model
58. Gorham v. Benson Optical
59. Hoffman v. Red Owl Stores
60. Drennan v. Star Paving

Dec. 2; Class 27: Wrinkles in Contract Law

Readings: 61. A Note on Unconsionability, Duress and Illegality
62. Austin Instruments v. Loral Group

Dec. 7; Class 28: Review Session

Readings: all contract readings

The examination schedule posted by the Registrar currently states that the final examination for this course will be held on Friday, December 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please continue to check the final examination schedule for the correct time and date.