

LGST 101-004
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
 16. Borton v. Forest Hills Country Club
 17. Nome 2000 v. Fagerstrom
 18. Constitutional Law
 19. Constitutional Law for a Changing America (The Takings Clause: Penn Central v. New York)

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

- Readings:
25. Washington v. Chrisman
 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 – Foregoing 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. Freund 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 Unconscionability, 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 Monday, December 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please continue to check the final examination schedule for the correct time and date.