



**INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND LEGAL PROCESS
LGST 101**

SPRING 2016

Prof. Peter Conti-Brown

Legal Studies & Business Ethics Department
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Class Meetings Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:30 – 12:00pm, Room TBD
Office Hours Tuesdays, 3:00-5:00pm, or email to arrange a meeting.

Course Description:

This course surveys the fundamentals of the U.S. legal system and process, its evolution and the way it interacts with—or impedes—various social, political, and economic goals. It will introduce a large variety of substantive areas of law and represents a brief taste of what students might expect from law school. The second half of the course will take a deep dive into two areas of law: contracts and administrative law (or, the law governing regulatory agencies like the Federal Reserve, the FDA, or the SEC). The course will also discuss the U.S. legal system in the context of the broader global legal system.

Grading:

Your grade is divided into four equal parts: 25% class participation, 25% for the first in-class exam, 25% for the second in-class exam, and 25% for the final projects. (More on the final projects, below.)

Class participation is mandatory. I will alternate between soliciting volunteer comments on the reading material/class discussion and “cold calling” students. Inadequate preparation will be noted and held against your participation grade. Emergencies occur, of course, and I recognize that every student will not complete every part of the reading every week. To that end, you can email me **no more than four times** at least one hour ahead of class to note that you are unprepared to discuss the day’s readings. I will not call on you during those four days, and will not hold the recusals against you.

The in-class exams will be a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and brief essay questions. You will be expected to complete the exam during the 90-minute course session.

The final project will be a “case comment” on any U.S. Supreme Court case written in the last ten years **not discussed in class**. The case comment will discuss the factual, legal, and political context of the case. You will be expected to read at least the unedited Supreme Court opinions, including dissenting and concurring opinions; the lower court opinions; the briefs submitted to the Court; and relevant news coverage and commentary on the case. (Google and the website <http://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/terms/> will assist you in this straightforward research endeavor.)

The case comment must also include your original analysis and discuss whether you think the Court’s resolution of the case was justified, and how you would have done differently if you were writing the opinion.

Each case comment should be 2,000 words multiplied by the number of students participating (no more than three students per group; solo projects are perfectly appropriate). You may divide the group work however you like, but each student in the group will receive the same grade for the entire project.

Note: I will be running each report through anti-plagiarism software. Plagiarized work will result in severe consequences for the student(s), consistent with the University of Pennsylvania’s and Wharton’s rules and policies.

Required Texts:

All required texts will be available through the course bulkpack available at STUDY.NET. I will also supplement that reading throughout the semester.

Class Format and Policies:

This course will involve some lecture, some group discussion, and some “Socratic” questioning. To better ensure class participation, electronic devices will only be permitted for pedagogical reasons. Email, online shopping, newspapers, etc. will not be tolerated.

Readings:

An updated syllabus with specific reading assignments will be posted to the course’s Canvas website at least two weeks ahead of the relevant class period.

Course Thumbnail (tentative and subject to revision):

1. Wednesday, January 13, 2016
 - Introduction: Vehicles in the Park and the Challenge of Law
2. Wednesday, January 20, 2016
 - Introduction to the Legal System
3. Monday, January 25, 2016
 - Spelunccean Explorers: The Role of the Judge in Anglo-American Law
4. Wednesday, January 27, 2016
 - Civil Procedure
5. Monday, February 01, 2016
 - Property: Personal and Real
6. Wednesday, February 03, 2016
 - Torts
7. Monday, February 08, 2016
 - Criminal Law
8. Wednesday, February 10, 2016
 - Criminal Procedure
9. Monday, February 15, 2016
 - International Law
10. Wednesday, February 17, 2016
 - International Law: Foreign Relations
11. Monday, February 22, 2016
 - Corporate Law I
12. Wednesday, February 24, 2016
 - Corporate Law II
13. Monday, February 29, 2016
 - Intellectual Property: Patents
14. Wednesday, March 02, 2016: First in-class exam
15. Monday, March 14, 2016
 - Intellectual Property: Copyright

16. Wednesday, March 16, 2016
 - Constitutional Law: Structure
17. Monday, March 21, 2016
 - Constitutional Law: Rights
18. Wednesday, March 23, 2016
 - Contracts: Introduction
19. Monday, March 28, 2016
 - Contracts: Consideration and the Offer
20. Wednesday, March 30, 2016
 - Contracts: Acceptance
21. Monday, April 04, 2016
 - Contracts: Remedies I
22. Wednesday, April 06, 2016
 - Contracts: Remedies II
23. Monday, April 11, 2016
 - Contracts: Remedies III
24. Wednesday, April 13, 2016
 - Administrative Law: The Regulatory State
25. Monday, April 18, 2016
 - Administrative Law: The Regulatory Process
26. Wednesday, April 20, 2016
 - Administrative Law: Central Banking and Financial Regulation I
27. Monday, April 25, 2016
 - Administrative Law: Central Banking and Financial Regulation II
28. Wednesday, April 27, 2016: Second in-class exam

Final projects are due to me by email on the day and time assigned for our final exam.