



**INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND THE LEGAL PROCESS
LGST 101 – 005**

SPRING 2016

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Class Meetings Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:00, Room TBD
Office Hours Wednesdays, 3:00 – 5:00. Or email to arrange a meeting. Or feel free to stop by any time Tues. or Thurs. afternoon.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the elements and institutions of American law. Its subject matter is broad. The first half of the course surveys the common law tradition, with an emphasis on the law of contract, while the second half wades into the complexities of public law in the modern administrative state. This wide-ranging approach seeks as far as possible to demystify law and to help students become comfortable digesting information about a wide array of legal problems and legal developments. Despite the course's topical breadth, however, our readings (and my ambition) are ultimately oriented around a single objective: to develop in students the capacities for inquiry, for skepticism, and for problem-solving that are uniquely associated with the Anglo-American legal tradition.

Required Texts:

Course Pack [available from study.net]

Exams and Grading:

Grading will be based the results of midterm (35%) and final (50%) exams, the format of which will be discussed in class, as well as on professionalism (15%).

Class Format and Policies:

This course will involve some lecture, some group discussion, and some “Socratic” questioning. At times, I will call on students without deference to volunteerism.

Therefore, students are expected to have read the assigned materials and to be ready to discuss them critically.

It is not always feasible to complete readings before class. I will not call on a student who emails me to this effect at least an hour before class (max four times during the semester). Please do not pretend to have read what you haven't.

Electronic devices will not be permitted in class. Shopping, texting, and gaming negatively affect group dynamics. If an emergency requires that you have connectivity, confer with me before class.

More generally, students are expected to behave professionally. Shirking and whining, in particular, are to be discouraged. A secondary goal of this course is to develop social intuitions about how to create a strong reputation within a business organization. Teaser: everyone likes someone who is courteous, punctual, engaged, and positive; everyone dislikes the opposite.

Informal Lunches and Dinners:

I would love to get to know you better and to hear your views on the course (among other things). To that end, I will organize some opportunities to have meals in small groups. This is not, however, a course requirement or expectation.

Course Thumbnail (tentative):

1. **1.14.16** — introduction; reading judicial opinions
2. **1.19.16** — what is law?
3. **1.21.16** — rules of recognition in the american legal system
4. **1.26.16** — introduction to property
5. **1.28.16** — patents
6. **2.2.16** — torts i – intentional torts
7. **2.4.16** — torts ii – negligence and strict liability

8. **2.9.16** — rules versus standards
9. **2.11.16** — contracts i: consideration, offer and acceptance
10. **2.16.16** — contracts ii: performance and excuse
11. **2.18.16** — contracts iii: expectation and reliance damages
12. **2.23.16** — contracts iv: specific performance
13. **2.25.16** — contracts v: quasi-contract
14. **3.1.16** — **midterm exam**
15. **3.3.16** — civil procedure
16. **3.15.16** — statutory interpretation: linguistic indeterminacy
17. **3.17.16** — problems in statutory interpretation
18. **3.22.16** — administrative law: introduction and non-delegation
19. **3.24.16** — administrative law: modes of administration
20. **3.29.16** — administrative law and the courts
21. **3.31.16** — statutes, administrative law, and courts in action: insider trading
22. **4.5.16** — statutes, administrative law, and courts in action: social security

23. 4.7.16 — constitutional law i: structure
24. 4.12.16 — constitutional law ii: structure
25. 4.14.16 — constitutional law iii: rights
26. 4.19.16 — constitutional law iv: incorporation
27. 4.21.16 — international law
28. 4.26.16 — review session