

## INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND LEGAL PROCESS LGST $101\,/910$

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Prof. Suneal Bedi

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# Class MeetingsMondays & Wednesdays, 1:15PM - 5.00PM, Room SHDH 105Office HoursEmail to arrange a meeting.

<u>Course Description</u>: This course provides an overview of the first year of law school. We will discuss several different legal concepts including criminal, tort, constitutional, contractual, and securities regulation. The course is meant to introduce you to several different legal doctrines in an introductory way rather than dive deeply into any one issue. Our goal for the course will be to find some underlying theme that unifies these various areas of the law. The course will also develop your analytical skills and your ability to articulate your ideas succinctly and clearly.

<u>Grading</u>: 45% Class Participation and Discussion 35% Final Moot Court Presentation 20% Weekly Case Write ups

### **Class Format and Policies:**

This course will involve some lecture, some group discussion, and "Socratic" questioning. 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. A major portion of your grade will be your *willingness and preparation to engage in class discussion*. This does not mean I expect you to have

all the answers to all my questions. Quite the opposite, I simply except you to be prepared to engage in lively discussions.

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 Coffee:

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.

<u>Readings</u>: They will be a mix of legal cases and book chapters. I will add or delete from the readings below depending on how the course develops. The following is a tentative list of readings.

Class 1—5.23: Introduction to the Law	Class 2—5.25: Civil Procedure
Intro	How to read a legal opinion
Shavell—Law & Morality	Your day in Court
Vehicles in the Park	Civil Procedure: Jury
Intro to the Legal System	Talley v. Mathis
No Secret Books	Nix v. Hedden
Class 3—6.01: Property	Class 4—6.06: Intentional Torts/Crimes
Pierson v. Post	Vosburg v. Putney
Popov v. Hayashi	Littlefield v. McGuffy
Sturges v. Bridgeman	Fitch v. Valentine

U.S. v CausbyStambovsky v. AckleyNome 200 v. FagerstromClass 5—6.08: NegligenceMussivand v. DavidU.S. v. Carroll Towing Co.Martin v. HerzogLucy Web v. PerottiSummers v. TiceBriefs for Fisher v. University of Texas Austion	Puryear v. Puryear Dudley v. Stephens People v. Casassa Shakelford v. Lundquist Class 6—6.13: Guest Lecture and Contracts Correspondence for Justices Yates v. United States
	Excerpts from US Constitution Lucy v. Zehmer Stepp v. Freeman Leftkowitz v. General Surplus Briefs for Bernard v. Minnesota
Class 7—6.15: Contracts (Part 2) Curtis v. Anderson Dickson v. Dodds Hammer v. Sidway Hawkins v. Mcgee Peevyhouse v. Garland Coal Briefs for Star Athletic Brands v. Varsity Brands	Class 8—6.20: Contracts (Part 3) and Takings Hadley v. Baxendale Williams v. Walker Furniture Sullivan v. O'Connor Penn Central v. City of NY Horne v. Dept. of Agriculture Briefs for Utah v. Streiff

Class 9—6.22: Insider Trading	Class 10—First Amendment
Chiarella v. U.S.	Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire
Dirks v. SEC	Texas v. Johnson
US. v. Newman	Ashcroft v. Free Coalition
U.S. v. Salman	U.S. v. Alvarez
Haddock on Insider Trading	Snyder v. Phelps
Briefs for Dollar General v. Choctaw Indians	
Class 11—TBD	