

**Introduction to Law and Legal Process
LGST 101**

T/TH 10:30am-11:50am; 1:30pm to 2:50pm; 3:00pm to 4:20pm

Prof. William S. Laufer
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Course Description

This course is an introduction to law and legal process with a particular focus on criminal law, constitutional law, tort law, and contract law.

Course Materials

Cases and materials will be posted and distributed on Canvas.

Course Requirements

Examinations and quizzes will require references to and analysis of assigned cases, statutes, and other materials, whether or not discussed during class. All assigned cases should be briefed in preparation for class. Students will be expected to add value to class discussions.

Examinations

I will administer unannounced quizzes, graded class exercises, and a mid-term examination (open book and open notes) this semester. In addition, there will be a final examination (open book and open notes) during the regularly scheduled examination period at the end of the semester.

Field Requirement

Students will be asked to choose one field exercise from the following: (a) joining a police “ride along” on a Friday evening, (b) arguing in a moot court exercise at Penn Law School, or (c) visiting New Jersey State Prison (Trenton, NJ).

Office Hours

Please contact me via email (lauferw@wharton.upenn.edu) to set up times to meet.

Grading

Final grades, consisting of class contribution/participation (20%), a mid-term examination (40%), and a final examination (40%), will be adjusted to conform to an acceptable distribution.

Class Schedule

Week:	Topic/Reading Assignment
1	Course Introduction (Choosing Equal Injustice) Introduction to Criminal Law (<i>Keeler v. Superior Court</i> ; <i>Elonis v. United States</i>) Introduction to Constitutional Law (<i>Kennedy v. Louisiana</i> ; <i>Tennessee v. Garner</i>)
2	Introduction to Tort Law (<i>Cohen v. Petty</i> ; <i>Spano v. Perini Corporation</i> ; <i>Lubitz v. Wells</i>) Introduction to Contract Law (<i>Trump v. Maher</i> ; <i>Vokes v. Arthur Murray, Inc.</i> ; <i>Hopper v. All Pet Animal Clinic</i>)
3	Introduction to the Legal System; Jurisprudence; Criminal Law Cases I Principles of Punishment; Criminal Statutes Criminal Law Cases II Actus Reus; Mens Rea
4	Criminal Law Cases III Causation; Criminal Homicide Criminal Law Cases IV Corporate Criminal Liability and Sanctions
5	Constitutional Law Cases I Federal Judicial, Legislative, and Executive Powers; Protection of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; First Amendment Protections

	Constitutional Law Cases II Fourth Amendment Protections
6	Constitutional Law Cases III Eighth Amendment Protections
7	Tort Law Cases I Intentional Torts
	Tort Law Cases II Negligence and Strict Liability
8	Tort Law Cases III Products Liability
9	Contract Law Cases I Bases for Enforcing Promises
	Contract Law Cases II The Bargaining Process
10	Contract Law Cases III Policing the Bargain
	Contract Law Cases IV Policing the Bargain
11	Contract Law Cases V Remedies for Breach
12	Contract Law Cases VI Performance and Breach
	Contract Law Cases VII Mistakes
	Contract Law Cases VIII Impossibility, Impracticability, and Frustration
	Review
	FINAL EXAMINATION (cumulative)