

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

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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 an 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

There will be unannounced quizzes, graded class exercises, and a mid-term examination (closed book) this semester. In addition, there will be a final examination (closed book) during the regularly scheduled examination period at the end of the semester. All examinations will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions, with topics that are borrowed from assigned cases and materials, along with class discussions of primary and secondary sources of law.

Field Requirement

Students will be asked to choose at least one field exercise: (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 (10%), a mid-term examination (40%), and a final examination (50%), will be adjusted to conform to an acceptable distribution.

General Outline

Topic/Reading Assignment

Course Introduction

(Choosing Equal Injustice)

Introduction to Criminal Law (*Keeler v. Superior Court; Elonis v. United States*)

Introduction to Constitutional Law

(*Kennedy v. Louisiana; Tennessee v. Garner*)

Introduction to Tort Law

(*Cohen v. Petty; Spano v. Perini Corporation; Lubitz v. Wells*)

Introduction to Contract Law

(*Trump v. Maher; Vokes v. Arthur Murray, Inc.; Hopper v. All Pet Animal Clinic*)

Introduction to the Legal System

Jurisprudence

Criminal Law Cases I

Principles of Punishment; Criminal Statutes

Criminal Law Cases II

Actus Reus; Mens Rea

Criminal Law Cases III

Causation; Criminal Homicide

Criminal Law Cases IV Corporate Criminal Liability and Sanctions I

Criminal Law Cases V Corporate Criminal Liability and Sanctions II

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

Constitutional Law Cases III

Eighth Amendment Protections

Tort Law Cases I

Intentional Torts

Tort Law Cases II
Negligence and Strict Liability

Tort Law Cases III
Products Liability

Contract Law Cases I
Bases for Enforcing Promises

Contract Law Cases II
The Bargaining Process

Contract Law Cases III
Policing the Bargain

Contract Law Cases IV
Policing the Bargain

Contract Law Cases V
Remedies for Breach

Contract Law Cases VI
Performance and Breach

Contract Law Cases VII
Mistakes

Contract Law Cases VIII
Impossibility, Impracticability, and Frustration

Review

FINAL EXAMINATION (cumulative)