

Introduction to Law and Legal Process
LGST 101
1:30pm-2:50pm
3pm-4:20pm

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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, take home assignments, and a mid-term examination (closed book) this semester. In addition, there will be a final examination (closed book-cumulative) during the regularly scheduled examination period at the end of the semester. The mid-term and final examinations will consist of multiple choice, and possibly true/false and short essay questions.

Midterm Examination

October 17th

Final Examination

Thursday December 19 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (for 1:30pm-2:50pm class)

Wednesday December 18 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (for 3pm-4:20pm class)

Exam Make-up Policy

All requests of make-up exams should be submitted to the Teaching Assistant through email at least 14 days before the exam date. Students must explain their situation and extraordinary circumstances that would justify the administration of a non-scheduled examination.

Field Exercises (optional, not required)

Students will be given an opportunity to argue a case currently before the United States Supreme Court at the moot courtroom (Penn Law School) on a weekday evening. Also, a trip to visit New Jersey State Prison (Trenton, NJ), the region's most secure maximum security prison is scheduled for twenty students from each section of LGST 101. Forms that reserve a spot on these trips will be available on Canvas.

Office Hours

Please contact the teaching assistant for questions about the class and, in particular, the grading of class assignment and examinations (Jimmy Gao; Tel: (267) 271-1633; Email: jimgao@wharton.upenn.edu). If questions and/or concerns still remain, please contact me via email (lauferw@wharton.upenn.edu).

Grading

Class Participation (20%)

This class is designed to be interactive. You will not only learn about different substantive areas of law but also learn how to think critically about law in class discussions. Like a typical law school setting, this class will use cold-calling to promote group discussion. Participation in class discussion and performance on in-class quizzes/exercises will largely determine this portion of your grade.

Midterm Exam (40%)

There is a one hour and twenty minute in class mid-term examination on October 17th. This exam will cover all of the material assigned and discussed in class.

Final Exam (40%)

The final exam will be held during the University's final exam week (see above). The content of the final exam is cumulative and the class material covered before the midterm exam will also be on the final.

*Final grades will be scaled to a represent a reasonable curve. *

Classroom Etiquette Students will be given name tents at the beginning of the semester and are expected to bring them to every class. *Please do not use any electronic devices during class. Computers are only permitted for students who are appointed as note takers.*

No audio and/or video recordings should be made during class hours.

Class Schedule¹

Week:	Topic/Reading Assignment
1	Course Introduction (Choosing Equal Injustice) Introduction to Criminal Law (<i>Keeler v. Superior Court; Elonis v. United States; State v. Knutson</i>) Introduction to Constitutional Law (<i>Kennedy v. Louisiana; Tennessee v. Garner</i>)
2	Introduction to Tort Law (<i>Cohen v. Petty; Spano v. Perini Corporation; Lubitz v. Wells</i>) Introduction to Contract Law (<i>Trump v. Maher; Vokes v. Arthur Murray, Inc.; 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

¹ This schedule may change given the pace of the class.

5	Constitutional Law Cases I 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)