Professor Brian Feinstein
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Section 2 Meeting Times  MW 10:15-11:45 a.m.
Section 3 Meeting Times  MW 12:00-1:30 p.m.
Office Hours  TBA

Course Description:

This course introduces students to U.S. law and the legal process, with a particular emphasis on business-relevant areas of the law. Throughout the semester, we will examine the extent to which law meets the moral needs of our society and balances competing values.

The course involves a combination of lecture, discussion, and Socratic questioning. Students are expected to read the assigned materials prior to class and be prepared to discuss them.

Materials:

The course readings via the Study.net and Course Materials @ Penn Libraries tabs on the course’s Canvas page. In addition to the readings listed below, I may occasionally post discussion questions and brief comments on Canvas.

Grading:

Final grades consist of a midterm examination (30%), group project (15%), final examination (35%), and class participation (20%).

Final Exam:

The final exam will be untimed and open book, distributed electronically shortly after the last class. It is due, also electronically, at 5:00 p.m. on December 22. There is no need to be physically present on campus for the final exam.

Class Participation:

Students are expected to add value to class discussions, for instance, by answering questions regarding the readings, posing your own questions, and responding to and interacting with your fellow students. The class participation grade is based on quality of participation over quantity.
Attendance:

Attendance is not required. Students should err on the side of caution and not attend class if they feel ill or have been in close contact with someone with COVID. There is no need to inform me of your absence. I trust that you are missing class for a good reason.

Although there is no attendance requirement, chronic absences will make it more challenging to satisfy the class participation component of the course. If you have missed 5 class sessions, please email me following the 5th missed session. We will discuss the likelihood of any future absences and, if needed, devise an alternative arrangement for your class participation grade.

Group Work:

The final project and occasional in-class exercises will require group work. By enrolling in the course, students pledge to contribute to their group’s efforts enthusiastically and in an equitable manner. All group members will receive the same grade on the final project.

Class Subjects

1. **Introduction to the Legal System** (8/31)
   Reading:
   1. Vehicles in the Park
   2. Orin Kerr, *How to Read a Legal Opinion*

2. **Litigation & Arbitration** (9/7)
   Readings:
   1. Mann & Roberts (Smith), ch. 3: Legal Process, pp. 31-38 & 40 (“Civil Dispute Resolution”)
   2. Jury Exercise (to be distributed)

3. **The Federal Court System** (9/12)
   Readings
   1. Mann & Roberts (Smith), ch. 3: Legal Process, pp. 25-31 & 39

4. **Property I – Personal and Real** (9/14)
   Readings:
   1. Feinman, *Law 101*, ch. 7: You What You Own
   2. Popov v. Hayashi
   3. Sturges v. Bridgman

5. **Property II – Adverse Possession** (9/19)
   Readings:
   1. *East 13th St. Homesteaders’ Coalition v. Lower East Side Coalition Housing Development*
   2. Nome 2000 v. Fagerstrom
6. **Property III – Intellectual Property** (9/21)
   Readings:
   1. *Google v. Oracle*
   2. *Samsung v. Apple*

7. **Property IV – Takings** (9/26)
   Readings
   1. *Penn Central v. City of New York*

8. **Torts I** (9/28)
   Reading:
   1. *Soldano v. O’Daniels*
   2. *Love v. Hardee’s Food Systems*

9. **Torts II** (10/3)
   Reading:
   1. *Palsgraf v. LIRR*
   2. *Dukat v. Leiserv*

10. **Contracts I – Intro, Consideration** (10/5)
    Readings
    1. *Hamer v. Sidney*
    2. *Batsakis v. Demotsis*
    3. *Harris v. Watson*
    4. *Stilk v. Myrick*

11. **Contracts II – Offer & Acceptance; Defenses to Breach** (10/10)
    Readings
    1. *Lucy v. Zehmer*
    2. *Stepp v. Freeman*
    3. *Williams v. Walker-Thomas Furniture*

12. **Contracts III – Remedies** (10/12)
    Readings
    1. *Hawkins v. McGee*
    2. *Peevyhouse v. Garland Coal*
    3. *Sullivan v. O’Connor*
    4. *Anglia Television v. Reed*

13. **Contracts IV – Remedies (cont’d)** (10/17)
    Readings:
    1. *Laredo Hides v. H&H Meat Products*
    2. *Teradyne Inc. v. Teledyne Industries*
    3. *Ericson v. Playgirl*
14. **Corporate Law** (10/19)
   Readings:
   2. *In re Disney*

15. **MIDTERM** (10/24)

16. **Criminal Law I – Insider Trading** (10/26)
   Readings:
   1. David Haddock, *Insider Trading*
   2. *Chiarella v. United States*
   3. *Dirks v. SEC*
   5. *Salman v. United States*

17. **Criminal Law II – Violent Crime; Criminal Procedure** (10/31)
   Readings:
   1. *Miranda v. Arizona*

18. **Constitutional Law I – Speech** (11/2)
   Readings:
   1. *Brandenburg v. Ohio*
   2. *Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Ass’n*

19. **Constitutional Law II – Equal Protection** (11/7)
   Readings:
   1. *Lochner v. New York*
   2. *Griswold v. Connecticut*

20. **Constitutional Law III – Commerce** (11/9)
   Readings:
   1. *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States*
   2. *Philadelphia v. New Jersey*

21. **Constitutional Law IV – Separation of Powers** (11/14)
   Readings:
   1. *Schechter Poultry v. United States*
   2. *Gonzales v. Raich*

22. **Administrative Law I – The Regulatory State** (11/16)
   Readings:
   1. *NBC v. United States*
   2. *United States v. Southwestern Cable*
   3. *FDA v. Brown & Williamson Tobacco*
   Readings:
   1. *Business Roundtable v. SEC*
   2. *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*

24. **International Law (11/28)**
   Readings:
   1. *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum*

25. **Foreign Relations Law (11/30)**
   Readings: None – prepare for group presentations

26. **Group Presentations (12/5)**

27. **Group Presentations (12/7)**

28. **Review (12/12)**

**FINAL EXAM:** Due electronically at 5:00 p.m. on December 22.