



**INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND SOCIAL VALUES
LGST 101**

SPRING 2022

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Class Meetings Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:15am – 11:45am, Room JMHH F65
Office Hours Tuesdays 1-3pm, but please email ahead of time to confirm.

Course Description:

This course surveys the fundamentals of the U.S. legal system and process, its evolution and the way it interacts with—or impedes—various social, political, moral, and economic goals. It will introduce a large variety of substantive areas of law and represents a brief taste of what students might expect from law school. The second half of the course will take a deeper dive into two areas of law: contracts and administrative law (or, the law governing regulatory agencies like the Federal Reserve, the FDA, or the SEC). The course will also discuss the U.S. legal system in the context of the broader global legal system.

Grading:

Your grade is divided into five parts: 20% class participation, 20% for the first in-class exam, 30% for the second in-class exam, 15% for “In the News” items that will form the basis for brief in-class discussion, and 15% for the final projects.

Participation. To make the course work, we will need lively discussion. To facilitate that discussion, I will alternate between soliciting volunteer comments on the reading material/class discussion and “cold calling” students. Inadequate preparation will be noted and held against your participation grade. Please don’t sweat this, though. If you whiff on a cold call, this should not be embarrassing or unduly prejudicial. There will be many opportunities to participate. I also view my role as pushing you to the edges of our understanding, so all of us should find ourselves throughout the semester saying “I don’t know, but here’s how I would think about this question.”

Exams. The in-class exams will be a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and brief essay questions. You will be expected to complete the exam during the 90-minute course session. The first exam will cover the first half of the course; the second exam, the second half only.

In the news. Each of you will be required to submit via Canvas six “In the News” items from newspapers in English (although not necessarily from the United States). The item should connect with an important legal issue relevant to our class discussion, but need not be timed to that specific class. The submission should include a PDF of the article and a few sentences about why you regard it as important for us to discuss in class.

During class, you will each have opportunities to present some of your submissions for a brief presentation.

Final presentation. The final presentation, a group project, will be a “case comment” on any case from the syllabus. Your presentation will be anchored on the following premise: “The court’s holding in [case] was misguided because it did not adequately consider the following”. I will assign you into small groups halfway through the semester. Students may opt out of this presentation by taking a 75% (or C) for their grade in this section (something that I anticipate will be of interest to students taking the course pass-fail. More information on the final projects will be distributed a few weeks after the semester begins.

Required Texts:

All required texts will be available through the course bulk pack available at STUDY.NET, accessible through the course’s Canvas page. I will also supplement that reading throughout the semester.

Class Format and Policies:

This course will involve some lecture, some group discussion, some activities, and some “Socratic” questioning. To better ensure class participation, electronic devices will only be permitted for pedagogical reasons. Email, online shopping, newspapers, etc. will not be tolerated and will be held against your participation grade. I will keep careful contemporaneous notes on whether you have become “laptop zombies” during class.

Course Thumbnail (tentative and subject to revision):

1. Introduction to the Legal System (1/13)

Readings:

1. Vehicles in the Park
2. Orin Kerr, *How to Read a Legal Opinion*
3. Mann & Roberts, *Introduction to Law*, ch 1

2. Litigation and Arbitration (1/18)

Readings:

1. Mann & Roberts, ch 3; Legal Process, pp 31-38 & 40 (“Civil Dispute Resolution”)
2. *Jury Exercise* (to be distributed)

3. The Federal Court System (1/20)

Readings:

1. Mann & Roberts, ch 3; Legal Process, pp 25-31 & 39 (“Civil Dispute Resolution”)

4. Property I – Personal and Real (1/25)

Readings:

1. Feinman, *Law 101*, ch 7: You Are What You Own
2. *Popov v. Hayashi*
3. *Sturges v. Bridgman*

5. Property II – Takings (1/27)

Readings:

1. *Cedar Point Nursery v. Hassid*

6. Property III – Intellectual Property (2/1)

1. Feinman, *Law 101*, pp 221-226

2. *Samsung v. Apple*

7. **Torts I (2/3)**

Reading:

1. Mann & Roberts, ch. 8: Negligence & Strict Liability – through Love v. Hardee's

8. **Torts II (2/8)**

Reading:

1. Mann & Roberts, ch. 8: Negligence & Strict Liability –Palsgraf v. LIRR through end

9. **Contracts I – Intro, Consideration (2/10)**

Reading:

1. Mann & Roberts, ch. 9: Introduction to Contracts
2. Ch. 2: Consideration

10. **Contracts II – Offer & Acceptance; Defenses to Breach (2/15)**

Reading:

1. Ch. 1: Intent to Contract – through Stepp v. Freeman (pp. 1-15)
2. Williams v. Walker-Thomas Furniture

11. **Contracts III – Remedies (2/17)**

Reading

1. Ch. 3: Measuring Expectation Damages (pp. 229-257) (including Hawkins v. McGee, Peevyhouse v. Garland Coal, Sullivan v. O'Connor, and Anglia Television v. Reed)

12. **Corporate Law (2/22)**

Reading

1. Dodge v. Ford Motor Co.
2. Second case TBD

13. Book: DisneyWars (2/24)

Reading:

1. James B. Stewart, *DisneyWar*

14. Film: Erin Brokovich (3/1)

1. Remote viewing with Zoom commentary

15. Midterm (3/3)

16. Criminal Law I – Insider Trading (3/15)

Reading:

1. David Haddock, Insider Trading
2. Chiarella v. United States
3. Dirks v. SEC
4. United States v. Newman
5. Salman v. United States

17. Criminal Law II – Violent Crime; Criminal Procedure (3/17)

Reading:

1. Torres v. Madrid

18. Constitutional Law I – Speech & Religion (3/22)

Reading:

1. Expressions Hair Design v. Schneiderman
2. Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue

19. Constitutional Law II – Equal Protection (3/24)

Reading:

1. Roe v. Wade

20. Constitutional Law III – Powers of the Presidency (3/29)

Reading:

1. Trump v. Vance
2. Seila Law

21. Constitutional Law IV – Corporate Speech (3/31)

Reading:

1. Hobby Lobby

22. Administrative Law I – The Regulatory State (4/5)

Reading:

1. Rogers, Healy, & Krotoszynski, Administrative Law, ch. 1 (pp. 6-15) -- including NBC v. U.S., FDA v. Brown & Williamson Tobacco – skip U.S. v. Southwestern Cable

23. Administrative Law II – The Regulatory Process (4/7)

Reading:

1. Business Roundtable v. SEC
2. SKIM Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council – will not be tested or cold-called

24. International Law (4/12)

Reading:

1. Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum

25. Book: Paul Barrett, Law of the Jungle (4/14)

26. Group Presentations (4/19)

27. Group Presentations/Review (4/21)

28. Second in-class exam (4/26)