LGST 1010: LAW & SOCIAL VALUES
THE WHARTON SCHOOL
FALL 2023 UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

TENTATIVE COURSE SyLLABUS

PROFESSOR JOSE ANDERSON
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL STUDIES AND BUSINESs ETHICS

COURSE DETAILS
Professor: José F. Anderson
Time: Monday 3:30 pm-6:30 pm
Course Category: Lecture
Office Hours: Monday 1:30 pm-3:30 pm (Huntsman Hall room 653)
University of Pennsylvania Wharton School
Phone: 410-837-4398 (Baltimore)
E-mail: jfa2@wharton.upenn.edu

University of Baltimore School of Law
Room Angelos Law Center LC 1107
1401 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Text Required:


Other cases and materials on Canvas or provided in class
Course Description and Objectives

This course is a critical introduction to the institutions and key concepts of American law. It is widely understood that legal rules govern the conduct of large classes of people and provide incentives for how they should act in the future—shaping institutions and influencing issues from economic prosperity to family relationships, loss of liberty to racial justice. Law allocates power and distributes resources. This course is designed to integrate the various fields of law in a fashion that emphasizes common themes and problems. The course focuses on both private law, including law of property, contract, and torts. It also explores public law including U.S. constitutional law, procedure and civil rights. This approach aims to help students become comfortable approaching an array of legal problems and legal developments. Our readings, and my ambition, are oriented around a key objective: to develop in you the capacity for inquiry, critique, and problem solving associated with the American legal tradition.

My Course & You

You are important to me. Not only as a student, but as a person. I want to get to know each of you and your interests and passions. Please always reach out to me if you have questions, concerns, or if there’s anything we can do to support you. I want this course to bring ideas, excitement, and joy to your life journey and goals.

Professor Anderson’s Background:

José Felipé Anderson graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) where he was Editor-in-Chief of the campus newspaper. A four-year Varsity athlete, he was inducted into the University’s Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in track and field and team captain. He attended the University of Maryland’s Francis King Carey Law School where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Maryland Law Forum. For nearly ten years he was a member of the Maryland Public Defender’s Office rising to Supervising Attorney in the Appellate Division (the First African American to hold that position). He was later designated Special Assistant Public Defender and “in house” counsel to the over 500+ employee state agency.

Throughout his career he has been involved in the trial and appeal of many high-profile cases, among them several death penalty cases in Maryland’s highest court, the United States Circuit Court Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States. He was the Founding Director of the Center for Litigation Skills at the University of Baltimore School of law from 2000-2008. He currently holds the Dean Joseph Curtis Endowed Professorship at the UBalt Law School and serves on the Affiliated Faculty at UPenn, Wharton as an Adjunct Professor of Legal Studies and Business Ethics where he has served for over 20 years. He received the University System of Maryland’s Regent’s award for Teaching/Mentoring in 2006.
and the Maryland Bar Foundation award for Advancement of Unpopular Causes in 2001. He also
served on the Board of Directors of the Filipino American Society of Maryland and the
Baltimore Museum of Industry. He is an elected member of the prestigious American Law
Institute.

Materials
My aim is to make the course as accessible and affordable as possible. There is one course book,
other assigned cases, readings, videos, which can be found on the course’s Canvas web site or
via a straightforward web search. Please let me know if you ever have problems accessing course
materials. Tentative assignments are listed at the schedule at the end of the syllabus. I may
change or add to the readings/videos over the course of the semester, especially if there are
significant or interesting legal developments. If so, I will let you know in class and post the
updated assignment on Canvas. We may also have occasional visiting lecturers from the legal
and business worlds.

Course structure, approach and prospective

The class will meet in person once a week. Law is a discursive, collaborative endeavor – and a
goal of the course is to teach the communicative skills of law. It’s therefore important that you
come to class and participate! A major part of the course perspective will be analyzing the
legal system through the eyes and work of legendary attorney Charles Hamilton Houston.

The Harvard trained African-American lawyer is widely known was known as the man who
ekilled Jim Crow and the architect of the legendary Brown v. Board of Education case. Credited
with being the mentor of some of the great lawyers of the 20th century including the late
Supreme Court Justice Thorogood Marshall, his brief but extraordinary legal career set the tone
for people who pursued and obtained legal rights through the trial court and appellate legal
system.

That process has been characterized as “Houstonian Jurisprudence” by some legal scholars. See,
Steven H. Hobbs, From the Shoulders of Houston: A Vision for Social and Economic Justice

Commemorative to Charles Hamilton Houston: Commemorative Articles, 32 Howard L.J. 505
(1989). Available at: https://scholarship.law.ua.edu/fac_articles/156, N. Jones, The Sisyphean
"Principles Supplementing the Houstonian School of Jurisprudence: Occasional Paper No. 1

His legal prowess expanded to many areas of the law including torts, contracts, criminal
procedure, and the first amendment. His life work demonstrates both the values and the potential
of the law as a tool for social change. Houston’s brilliant understanding of the law was
recognized by the longest serving Supreme Court justice in American history, who described him
as one of the best lawyers to ever present a case before the nation’s highest court. See, William
lens of Houston’s transformational legal work, we will learn how the law has worked in the past and will continue to work in the future. It will help us examine both the potential and the shortcomings of using the courts and the law to change the circumstances of our society.

**Grading and Assignments**

The most important thing you can and should do for this class is to do the readings and think critically about what you read. It’s key that you complete the assigned readings before class on the day shown!

Your final grade in this course will be based on the following:

- Quizzes/ Case brief (20%)
- Participation (10%)
- Group presentation project (30%)
- Final exam (40%)

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Class 1**

*Introduction to the U.S. Legal System*

*Genius for Justice*, Foreword

Orin Kerr, How to Read a Legal Opinion


**Class 2**

*Building Blocks of Legal Analysis*

*Genius for Justice*, Chapter 1

Bountiful Brick Co. v. Giles, 276 U.S. 154 (1928).

Class 3
Debt and Debtors and the Courts
Genius for Justice, Chapter 3

Negligence & Strict Liability and foreseeability
Palsgraf v. LIRR 162 N.Y. 99 (N.Y. 1928).

Class 4

Power to compel – “Law is Coercion”

Class 5

Participation in Justice

Class 6

Measuring Expectation Damages / Remedies
Hadley v. Baxendale (English Exchequer Court 1854).
Carlill v. Carbolic Smoke Ball Co. (Queen's Bench 1893).
Class 7

*Losing life or liberty*


*Genius for Justice*, Chapter 5

Class 8

*Trial by Jury and how did we get it?*

Anderson, *The Burden and Benefits of the American Jury*

Maryland Bar Journal, March/April, 2001

Class 9

*How much power should a jury have?*


Class 10

*Justice at the workplace*


*Genius for Justice*, Chapter 6
Class 11

*Rights attached to property*
Genius for Justice, Chapter 7

Class 12

*Power to Regulate and with Punishment*

Class 13

*Freedom of Speech*
Lawson v. United States, 176 F.2d 49 (D.C. Cir. 1949).
Genius for Justice, Chapter 8
https://vimeo.com/69927575 Ades

Class 14

*Presentation day and wrap up*