

LAW 7115-03: TORTS II

SYLLABUS

Prof. Bell
Spring 2009

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Through tort law, a person who has suffered a wrong caused by another person can use civil litigation to exact legal remedies—most notably, compensation—from that wrongdoer. Last semester, in Torts I, we focused on: intentional torts and defenses to them; negligence; and principles of causation. This semester, in Torts II, we will turn to strict liability, products liability, measuring damages, defenses to unintentional torts, and three particular types of torts: defamation; invasion of privacy; and nuisance.

Together with Torts I, Torts II should prepare you to analyze a wide variety of tort law issues at a general level. Dealing with particular types of torts, such as medical malpractice, may require additional, specialized study. This class should also help to polish your legal reasoning skills and introduce you to some of the practical and ethical concerns of a working attorney.

GRADING

Exams count for a total of 90% of your course grade. A final exam of essay and multiple-choice questions will count for 75% of your grade for the course. The essay portion will predominate. It will be partially closed-book; the multiple-choice part will be closed-book. A similarly formatted mid-term exam will count for 15% of your course grade.

Participation counts for 10% of your course grade. You can earn one participation point per class by signing a sheet indicating that you have prepared to discuss the assignment. You may lose some or all of the points allowed for classroom discussion if you sign up to speak but demonstrate lack of preparation. You may also earn participation points for various ungraded quizzes or projects.

Review teams give you the opportunity to earn 10 participation points. At the beginning of the semester, I will randomly assign you to such a team. You and your team members will be tasked to start a given class by orally reviewing the prior one. Your review team will also have to provide a written summary no longer than one page long, copies of which I will have distributed to your classmates. Your team will have to send an electronic copy of its written summary to my administrative assistant, Frank

Alvarado, at falvarad@chapman.edu, by 10 a.m. of the morning of your in-class presentation. Your team's review will receive a pass/fail grade worth 10/0 participation points to each team member. Please note that I will not police disputes among team members about how to share duties, but that any team member who fails to help orally present part of his/her team's review will receive no points for the exercise.

HOW TO CONTACT ME

You can find me in my office, room 438, each Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and each Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2:30 until 5:30 p.m. I welcome you to drop by at those times or at other times by appointment. You can also call me at 714/628-2503 or email me at <tbell@chapman.edu>. At <<http://www.tomwbell.com/teaching.html>> you can find course materials, such as a copy of this syllabus and some past exams.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

This syllabus sets forth the readings assigned from the course's text, TORTS: CASES AND QUESTIONS (Farnsworth & Grady, eds., 2004). Please note that while I will make a good faith effort to follow this syllabus, I reserve the right to change it.

<u>class #</u>	<u>assignment</u>	<u>(# of pages)</u>
Introduction		
Class 1:	pp. 393, 460-463, 515, 565, 607, 685-88, 741	(9)
Ch. 7. Strict Liability		
Class 2:	pp. 393-404	(11)
Class 3:	pp. 404-14	(9)
Class 4:	pp. 414-427 (note 6), 428-29 (note 9)	(14)
Class 5:	pp. 431, 434-446	(12)
Ch. 8. Products Liability		
Class 6:	pp. 447-460	(13)
Class 7:	pp. 460-468 (n. 1), 471-477	(15)
Class 8:	pp. 477-484, 488 (n.4)-491	(11)
Class 9:	pp. 493-502	(9)

Ch. 9. Damages

Class 10:	pp. 515-527 (n. 2)	(14)
Class 11:	pp. 535-547	(12)
Class 12:	pp. 547-557 (n. 4)	(9)
Class 13:	pp. 557 (n. 5)-564	(8)

Midterm Exam

Class 14:	(administered in-class on Monday, March 9)	
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Ch. 10. Defenses

Class 15:	pp. 565-580	(16)
Class 16:	pp. 580-590	(10)
Class 17:	pp. 590-595, 597 (n.5)-599, 600 (n.3)-601, 603 (n.5)-605	(11)

Ch. 11. Defamation

Class 18:	pp. 607-620	(13)
Class 19:	pp. 620-621, 625 (n.6)-638	(13)
Class 20:	pp. 638-642 (n. 6), 644-652	(14)
Class 21:	pp. 652-669	(17)
Class 22:	pp. 669-679 (n.3), 684	(11)

Ch. 12. Invasion of Privacy

Class 23:	pp. 685-689, 697-708, 714 (n. 10)	(16)
Class 24:	pp. 714-726	(12)
Class 25:	pp. 729-740	(11)

Ch. 13. Nuisance

Class 26:	pp. 741-753, 757-761	(17)
Class 27:	pp. 765-766, 771-774 (n. 8), 776-783	(11)

Review

Class 28:	(review)	(0)
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