

TORTS

Community College of Philadelphia
PLS 241
Fall 2009

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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 -4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

TEXTBOOK: Okrent, *Torts and Personal Injury Law*, 4th ed. (Thomson/Delamr Learning 2010).

CLASS ROOM & TIMES: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 – 10:50 a.m. Room C2-6

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE: This is an advanced course in Torts for paralegals involved in personal injury litigation and trial practice, including principles of torts such as negligence, product liability, intentional torts, strict liability and limited tort.

GRADES AND GRADING POLICIES: Barring excessive absences, the following graded assignments will determine your **final grade** for the class:

2 Test (15% of grade each)

Final (20% of grade)

Project #1 (25% of grade)

Project #2 (15% of grade)

Attendance/Active Participation (10% of grade) In addition to active participation in class discussion & exercises, each student must bring in one current article from a magazine or newspaper to discuss with the class. The article must relate to a case involving a tort or potential tort.

DEADLINES: Unless I tell you otherwise, assignments are due at the beginning of class. If your assignment is late, I will reduce your grade accordingly. The penalty for late assignments is 5 points on a scale of 100 for every calendar day late. Partial days will be treated as full days.

ATTENDANCE: It is imperative that you attend every class. Excessive absences and latenesses will result in you being withdrawn from the class or, if past the deadline for withdraws, a lowering of your final grade by one full letter grade. More than four absences is considered excessive. Lateness or early departures totaling 60 minutes over the semester will be considered excessive.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism means passing off the work or writings of others as one's own. Plagiarism is a serious offense. It is a form of theft; stealing someone's work and passing it off as your own. Plagiarism can occur intentionally when a student intends to

use someone else's work and pass it off as his/her own, or it may occur unintentionally when a student fails to credit the source of information through proper citing.

If you are discovered to have plagiarized, you will: (1) fail the assignment; and/or (2) fail the course. I may also turn the matter over to the Dean of Student Affairs for disciplinary action. The College and our program take this offense very seriously and so should you.

As part of this course, you will be asked to sign an integrity statement addressing all areas of unethical behavior such as plagiarism.

Schedule of Readings & Assignments

Week One:	Class 1:	Introduction	
	Class 2:	What is a Tort?	Ch. 1
Week Two:	Class 3:	What is a Tort? cont'd Tort Reform	
	Class 4:	Negligence	Ch. 2
Week Three:	Class 5:	Negligence cont'd Interviewing a client	Ch. 13
	Class 6:	Negligence cont'd	
Week Four:	Class 7:	Special Negligence Actions	Ch. 3
	Class 8:	Special Negligence Actions, continued & Defenses to Negligence	Ch. 4
Week Five:	Class 9:	Defenses to Negligence cont'd	
	Class 10:	Writing a complaint/Review for test <u>Assign: Project #1</u>	
Week Six:	Class 11:	<u>Test covering Ch. 1-4</u>	
	Class 12:	Intentional Torts: Injuries to Persons	Ch. 5
Week Seven:	Class 13:	Intentional Torts: Injuries to Persons cont'd	Ch. 6
	Class 14:	Intentional Torts: Injuries to Persons cont'd <u>Due: Project #1</u>	

Week Eight:	Class 15:	Injuries to Property	Ch. 7
	Class 16:	Injuries to Property, cont'd	
Week Nine:	Class 17:	Defenses to Intentional Torts	Ch. 8
	Class 18:	<u>Test covering Ch. 5-8</u> <u>Return Project #1</u>	
Week Ten:	Class 19:	Strict Liability <u>Due: Project #1 rewrites</u>	Ch. 9
	Class 20:	Products Liability <u>Assign: Project #2</u>	Ch. 10
Week 11:	Class 21:	Products Liability, cont'd	
	Class 22:	Special Tort Actions	Ch. 11
Week 12:	Class 23:	Special Tort Actions, cont'd <u>Due: Project #2</u>	
NO CLASS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 – Happy Thanksgiving			
Week 13:	Class 24:	Tort Immunities	Ch. 12
	Class 25:	Paralegal Ethics	
Week 14:	Class 26:	Pennsylvania Automobile Immunity & Review for Final	
	Handout		
	Class 27:	Pennsylvania Automobile Immunity, cont'd & Review for Final	
Week 15:	Final exam covering Ch. 9-12, Ethics and Auto law – Day and time to be announced		

Happy Holidays!!!