

WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW

TORTS II

Spring 2024

Tues 3-5 (Sec. A)

Tues 6:30-8:30 (Sec. C)

SYLLABUS

Professor Eunice Park

Office: FA120

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Office Hours: Tues 12:30-2; 5:30-6; Th 2:45-4:15; Fri 2-4.

Office hours are subject to change, so please check Calendly for appointments. The Calendly link is posted on the Lexis Classroom Page under Announcements. Meetings are available both over Zoom and in-person *but will be held over Zoom unless otherwise specified*. Please note that Calendly automatically generates an individual Zoom link for each appointment (whether in-person or Zoom), which you will receive at the e-mail address under which you signed up for the appointment.

Course Coverage

Torts II is a two-credit course that builds on materials covered in Torts I. We will cover a variety of new topics: negligence defenses, nuisance, strict liability, products liability, defamation, and invasion of privacy. We will explore the social, economic, and political considerations that bear on the development of legal principles in these areas.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

We will use the same materials as in Torts I.

- Henderson & Kysar, *The Torts Process* (10th ed., Wolters Kluwer)
- Enrollment in course website on the Lexis Classroom Page, titled, “Torts II – Spring 2024 – PARK.” You are responsible for all handouts and posted materials.

RECOMMENDED TEXT and STUDY AID

We will not refer to this text specifically in class, but you may find this a helpful supplemental resource: Diamond, Levine, & Bernstein, *Understanding Torts* (7th ed., Carolina Academic Press)

As a reminder, students who purchase a new copy of *The Torts Process* or rent one from the publisher will have access to *Casebook Connect*, an on-line educational service provided by Wolter Kluwer. The study aids include outlining suggestions and practice questions, such as multiple choice, flash card, and issue-spotting problems that will allow you to self-test in the topics we cover.

ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is mandatory. In Standard 308(a), the American Bar Association states that law schools must require regular and punctual class attendance. ***A student may not be absent for more than four day classes or two evening classes.*** A student with absences exceeding the limit will be subject to administrative dismissal from the course per the WSCL Attendance Policy (reprinted in the Student Handbook). ***You are responsible for keeping track of the number of absences you accumulate.***

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students earn a numeric grade for the course. The final course grade will be based on the midterm (15%), the final exam (80%), and Participation & Professionalism (5%).

Participation and Professionalism

Success in law school requires an active and professional learning environment. For volunteer participation, quality is valued over quantity, and all views are welcome. 5% of your final course grade will be based on the quality and quantity of your contributions to class discussions, including preparedness for class discussions; good faith effort and timely submission of assignments; attendance and punctuality to class and office hour appointments; respectfulness in verbal and written communications; general conduct during class; and overall professionalism.

You may ***not record*** this class without my prior approval. ***This includes taking pictures of class material.*** Students in violation of these policies may be referred to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

OUTSIDE PREPARATION

Torts is a bar-tested topic and a graduation requirement. You should anticipate that, on average, preparing your weekly case reading and brief writing will take you a minimum of two hours or more for every one hour of class time. Since Torts II is a two-unit class, you should estimate your preparation for class to require four (4) or more hours outside of class to complete.

LEARNING GOALS

The learning objectives for Torts II include both mastery of skills and doctrinal knowledge. Below you will find a list of the key skills that will be practiced and developed.

- Issue Spotting: Identify the appropriate legal question arising out of a fact pattern.
- Rule Statement: Understand the substantive legal rules courts and legislatures have developed over time in attempting to assess responsibility for losses suffered by individuals in various contexts; and be able to state an accurate paraphrase of applicable rules, including appropriate legal terms of art.
- Rule Interpretation and Application: Apply and distinguish rules in relation to a hypothetical set of facts, with appropriate explanation of the relevance of the facts to the outcome of the dispute, including the strengths and weaknesses of the argument.
- Policy: Understand, and think critically about, the economic and social policy considerations behind the legal rules and the application of the rule to the legal controversy.
- Identify issues that attorneys encounter in everyday tort law practice.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

This syllabus is subject to change as topics, readings and assignments may be adapted as needed to fit the pace of our class. Supplemental readings or assignments may be posted on the Classroom Page. You are responsible for all handouts and materials.

Class Schedule	Topic	Readings	Cases
Sec A: Tues 3-5 Sec C: Tues 6:30-8:30		Complete the reading assignments in advance of the class session, in the order listed below. All reading assignments are to <i>The Torts Process</i> , Henderson & Kysar, 10th edition, unless otherwise specified. Reading assignments do not include any exercises that may be interspersed or at the end of chapters, unless specifically assigned.	
Week 1 1/16	Course Introduction Negligence Defenses	Read Syllabus. 411-415, 424-429, 433-434 (up to word “affirmed”)	<i>Butterfield v. Forrester (411)</i> <i>Davies v. Mann (413)</i> <i>Knight v. Jewett (433)</i>
Week 2 1/23	Negl Defenses cont’d Immunities	415-424 436-445	<i>Meistrich v. Casino Arena Attractions, Inc. (415)</i> <i>Stelluti v. Casapenn Enterprises, LLC (419)</i>
Week 3 1/30	Review of Trespass Nuisance Strict Liability: Animals	447-458; materials posted on classroom page 491-496	<i>Friendship Farms v. Parson Prah v. Maretti</i>

<p>Week 4 2/6</p>	<p>Strict Liability: Abnormally Dangerous Activities</p> <p>Vicarious Liability</p>	<p>496-509 (top) 517-522</p> <p>158-62; materials posted on classroom page</p>	<p><i>Fletcher v. Rylands</i> (496) <i>Rylands v. Fletcher</i> (499) <i>Turner v. Big Lake Oil</i> (499) <i>Siegler v. Kuhlman</i> (502) <i>Toms v. Calvary Assembly of God</i> (517) <i>Foster v. Preston Mill</i> (520)</p> <p><i>Kane Furniture Corp. v. Miranda</i> <i>Riley v. Standard Oil Co.</i></p>
<p>Week 5 2/13</p>	<p>Midterm Review</p>		
<p>Week 6: No class 2/20 (Legislative Mon)</p>			
<p>Week 7 2/27</p>	<p>Midterm</p>		
<p>Spring Break 3/3-3/10</p>			
<p>Week 8 3/12</p>	<p>Products Liability: Introduction 1. Manufacturing</p>	<p>525-539, 253-256, 538-547 (up to Henderson article)</p>	<p><i>MacPherson v. Buick Motor Co.</i> (527) <i>Henningsen v. Bloomfield Motors</i> (532) <i>Escola v. Coca Cola Bottling</i> (253, focus on Traynor concurrence) <i>Vandermark v. Ford Motor Co.</i> (539)</p>
<p>Week 9 3/19</p>	<p>Products Liability: 2. Design</p>	<p>598-608, 579-587</p>	<p><i>Heaton v. Ford Motor Co.</i> (598) <i>Barker v. Lull Eng 'g Co.</i> (squib at 601) <i>Soule v. General Motors</i> (603) <i>Troja v. Black & Decker</i> (579) <i>Parish v. JumpKing</i> (585) (design)</p>

Week 10 3/26	Products Liability: 3. Warning Causation; Defenses	578-579, 588-589, 616-622, 630-633 554-559; 562-569 (up to parag beg'g with "Quite")	<i>Parish v. JumpKing (588) (warning)</i> <i>Sheckells v. AGV Corp. (617)</i> <i>Moore v. Ford (630)</i> <i>Union Pump v. Allbritton (556)</i> <i>Murray v. Fairbanks Morse (563)</i>
Week 11 4/2	Defamation: Common law	823-850	<i>Chau v. Lewis (829)</i> + squibs
Week 12 4/9	Defamation: Constitutional law	853-873; material posted on classroom page	<i>Gilmore v. Jones (854)</i> <i>Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc. (866)</i> <i>Dun & Bradstreet v. Greenmoss</i>
Week 13 4/16	Invasion of Privacy: Overview 1. Intrusion 2. Disclosure	883-889; 892-896 899-909	<i>Lunsford v. Sterilite of Ohio (887)</i> <i>Shulman v. Group W Prods., Inc. (892)</i> <i>Diaz v. Oakland Tribune (899)</i>
Week 14 4/23	Invasion of Privacy: 3. False Light 4. Appropriation/ Publicity	917-921 923-932	<i>Godbehere v. Phoenix Newspapers (917)</i> <i>In Re NCAA Student-Athlete Name & Likeness Licensing Litigation (925)</i>
Week 15 4/30 TBA (4/30 last day of classes)	Course Review	TBA	

READING WEEK Reading period 5/1-5/3			
FINAL EXAM {Date TBA}			

DISABILITY SERVICES STATEMENT:

Western State College of Law provides accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. The **Disabilities** Services Office assists qualified students with disabilities in acquiring reasonable and appropriate accommodations and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities at Western State College of Law.

To seek reasonable accommodations, a student must contact Senior Assistant Dean Donna Espinoza, Student Services Director and Disabilities Services Coordinator, whose office is in the Students Services Suite. Dean Espinoza's phone number and email address are: (714) 459-1117; despinoza@wsulaw.edu. When seeking accommodations, a student should notify Dean Espinoza of her or his specific limitations and, if known, her or his specific requested accommodations. Students who seek accommodations will be asked to supply medical documentation of the need for accommodation. Classroom accommodations are not retroactive, but are effective only upon the student sharing approved accommodations with the instructor or professor. Therefore, students are encouraged to request accommodations as early as feasible with Dean Espinoza to allow for time to gather necessary documentation. If you have a concern or complaint in this regard, please notify Dean Espinoza; or please notify Dean Marisa Cianciarulo at mcianciarulo@wsulaw.edu or (714) 459-1168. Complaints will be handled in accordance with the College of Law's "Policy against Discrimination and Harassment."

Western State College of Law – Programmatic Learning Outcomes

Western State College of Law’s curriculum is designed so that every student achieves a level of competency prior to graduation in each of the eight Programmatic Learning Outcomes listed below:

(1) Doctrinal Knowledge

Students will demonstrate knowledge of substantive and procedural law in the core curriculum subjects, including Contracts, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Torts, Real Property, Business Association, Evidence, Civil Procedures, Constitutional Law, Estates, Community Property, Remedies, and Professional Responsibility.

(2) Practice Skills

Students will demonstrate the development of other law practice skills. Each student’s chosen outcomes within this category will be varied based on the student’s particular interests, coursework and work experiences. They may include, but are not limited to, the following topics: oral presentation and advocacy; interviewing; counseling; client service and business development; negotiations, mediation, arbitration, or other alternate dispute resolution methods; advanced legal research and writing (excluding purely academic papers and the first four units earned in introductory first-year legal research and writing class); applied legal writing such as drafting contracts, pleadings, other legal instruments; law practice management or the use of technology in law practice; cultural competency; collaboration or project management; financial analysis, such as accounting, budgeting project management, and valuation; cost benefit analysis in administrative agencies; use of technology, data analyses, or predictive coding; business strategy and behavior; pre-trial preparation, fact investigation, such as discovery, e-discovery, motion practice, assessing evidence, or utilizing experts; trial practice; professional civility and applied ethics; a law clinic that includes a classroom component; or a legal externship that includes a classroom component.

(3) Legal Analysis

Students will demonstrate the ability to identify the factual and legal issues implicated by a fact pattern and to appropriately use cases (including identifying the salient features of an appropriate precedent case, identifying legally significant similarities or differences between the precedent case and a fact pattern and explaining why those are legally significant) and rules (including the ability to connect legally significant facts in a fact pattern to the rule) to predict how a court would decide the issue. Students will also demonstrate the ability to identify and evaluate the public policies of a precedent case or rule, and be able to evaluate how public policy can impact the application of a rule to the legal issue.

(4) Legal Research

Students will demonstrate the ability to locate relevant legal authority using a variety of book and electronic resources, and to properly cite to such legal authority.

(5) Communication

Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate both orally and in writing in a manner appropriate to a particular task to effectively convey the author or speaker’s ideas. This includes audience sensitivity in written and oral communication (the ability to adopt a tone, style and level of detail appropriate to the needs, knowledge and expertise of the audience); and written communication basic proficiency (the ability to use the conventions of grammar, spelling, punctuation, diction and usage appropriate to the task and sufficient to convey effectively the author’s ideas).

(6) Advocacy of Legal Argument

Students will demonstrate the ability, in both oral and written formats, to evaluate the legal, economic and social strengths and weaknesses of a case and use case and statutory authority as well as public policy to persuade others. Making policy-based arguments includes the ability to identify and evaluate the public policies of a precedent case or rule and their implications, and be able to assert such appropriate arguments to support a particular application or distinction of a precedent case to a legal controversy or a particular resolution of the application of a rule to the legal controversy.

(7) Client Sensitivity and Cultural Competency

Students will demonstrate an awareness of clients’ needs and goals, including a sensitivity to clients’ background and circumstances (including, but not limited to, socio-economic, gender, race, ethnicity, educational, disability and/or religious background(s)), the ability to make decisions that reflect an appropriate focus on those needs and goals, and awareness that cultural issues may affect the relevance of facts and application of the law.

(8) Legal Ethics

Students will demonstrate the ability to identify ethical issues in law practice contexts and make appropriate decisions to resolve such issues.