

INTRODUCTION TO LAW
(1 CREDIT)

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FALL 2023

SYLLABUS

CLASS	DATE	TOPIC(S)	PREPARATION
1.	BEFORE INTRODUCTION TO LAW 14-DAY "LAWYERING FUNDAMENTALS" MODULES	<u>LAWYERING FUNDAMENTALS ONLINE MODULES</u> (STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)	
2.	MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023	<u>INTRODUCTION TO COURSE AND TO THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM</u> (REQUIRED)	READ AND COME TO CLASS PREPARED TO DISCUSS PP. 1-80 OF "WHAT EVERY LAW STUDENT REALLY NEEDS TO KNOW."
3.	TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023	<u>THE LEGAL TOOLBOX: BASIC TECHNIQUES</u> (REQUIRED)	READ AND COME TO CLASS PREPARED TO DISCUSS PP. 81-102 OF "WHAT EVERY LAW STUDENT REALLY NEEDS TO KNOW."
4.	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023	<u>THE LEGAL TOOLBOX: CONCEPTS</u> (REQUIRED)	READ AND COME TO CLASS PREPARED TO DISCUSS PP. 103-136 OF "WHAT EVERY LAW STUDENT REALLY NEEDS TO KNOW."
5.	THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023	<u>THE LEGAL TOOLBOX: STRATEGIES AND COURSE CONCLUSION</u> (REQUIRED)	READ AND COME TO CLASS PREPARED TO DISCUSS PP. 137-176 OF "WHAT EVERY LAW STUDENT REALLY NEEDS TO KNOW."
<u>TAKE HOME FINAL EXAMINATION</u> (REQUIRED)			

INTRODUCTION TO LAW IS A REQUIRED, ONE-CREDIT COURSE. IT IS COMPRISED OF TWO COMPONENTS: (1) LAWYERING FUNDAMENTALS, AN SERIES OF SELF-GUIDED ON-LINE MODULES THAT TAKES PLACE PRIOR TO ORIENTATION WEEK, AND (2) A FOUR-DAY INTENSIVE IN PERSON CLASS THAT TAKES PLACE DURING ORIENTATION WEEK.

I. LAWYERING FUNDAMENTALS:

LAWYERING FUNDAMENTALS IS AN ONLINE COURSE THAT YOU WILL TAKE PRIOR TO THE IN-PERSON "INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW" COURSE. LAWYERING FUNDAMENTALS IS DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OF THE FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS YOU NEED TO BE A SUCCESSFUL LAW STUDENT. THIS INCLUDES: (I) UNDERSTANDING HOW TO EFFECTIVELY PREPARE FOR AND PARTICIPATE IN CLASS (INCLUDING HOW TO MEANINGFULLY ENGAGE IN SOCRATIC CLASSROOM DIALOGUE); (II) LEARNING HOW TO SYNTHESIZE CLASS NOTES AND CASE BRIEFS INTO A COURSE OUTLINE YOU CAN EFFECTIVELY USE TO STUDY FOR EXAMINATIONS; AND (III) DEVELOPING YOUR ABILITY TO IDENTIFY THE LEGAL DOCTRINES IMPLICATED BY THE FACTS AND WRITE A COHESIVE LEGAL ANALYSIS ORGANIZED AROUND THE "IRAC METHODOLOGY."

THE LAWYERING FUNDAMENTALS MODULES ARE OPTIONAL, BUT HIGHLY ENCOURAGED. STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE THESE MODULES BELIEVE THEY HAVE AN ADVANTAGE AT THE START OF CLASS.

THE MODULES MUST BE COMPLETED DURING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THREE-WEEK WINDOWS:

- *START DATE: JULY 11, 2023, WITH A FINAL EXAMINATION WINDOW OF JULY 30-31, 2023; OR
- *START DATE: AUGUST 1, 2023, WITH A FINAL EXAMINATION WINDOW OF AUGUST 20-21, 2023.

THIS COMPONENT OF THE COURSE IS DELIVERED THROUGH AN ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM CALLED "BRIGHTSPACE." YOU WILL RECEIVE LOG-IN CREDENTIALS BY EARLY JULY 2023 WITH FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT HOW TO ACCESS THE CLASSROOM. WE WILL ALERT YOU WHEN THAT INFORMATION IS BEING SENT. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CHECK YOUR SPAM/JUNK FOLDER. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUE ACCESSING THE CLASSROOM, PLEASE CONTACT SUPPORT@LAWSTUDENTONLINE.COM.

PREPARATION: THERE ARE A FEW ITEMS THAT REQUIRE YOUR ATTENTION PRIOR TO THE START OF CLASS, ALL OF WHICH YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LOCATE UNDER THE "WELCOME – START HERE" FOLDER WITHIN THE ONLINE LEARNING CLASSROOM:

1. ACCESS THE ONLINE CLASSROOM
2. READ: LAWYERING FUNDAMENTALS CLASS SYLLABUS
3. READ: NAVIGATING YOUR COURSE DOCUMENT
4. READ: LEARNING OUTCOMES
5. SKIM: GLOSSARY OF LEGAL TERMS
6. DOWNLOAD AND SAVE OR PRINT THE TORTS CASE MATERIALS

II. ORIENTATION WEEK "INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW" COURSE:

THIS COURSE IS REQUIRED. YOU MUST ATTEND ALL FOUR CLASSES IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE. THE READING ASSIGNMENTS ARE POSTED ABOVE.

CLASS GUIDELINES

(1) ATTENDANCE:

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION ARE AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF THE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE AND THUS ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED AT EVERY SESSION. STUDENTS THAT MISS MORE THAN ONE CLASS WILL BE ADMINISTRATIVELY WITHDRAWN FROM CLASS. IF YOU ARRIVE TO CLASS LATE, IT COUNTS AS HALF AN ABSENCE.

(2) OFFICE HOURS:

I WELCOME STUDENTS AND AM WIDELY AVAILABLE DURING MY DESIGNATED VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS FROM 4:00 TO 5:00 P.M. MONDAY – THURSDAY DURING THE COURSE. STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO STOP BY MY OFFICE IN ROOM 217 DURING THESE TIMES OR TO CONTACT ME TO SET UP AN ALTERNATIVE TIME TO MEET. MY E-MAIL ADDRESS IS JSTEINER@LAW.WNE.EDU.

(3) CREDIT AND GRADE:

THIS IS A 1-CREDIT PASS/FAIL COURSE. THIS COURSE IS BASED ON THE TEXT "WHAT EVERY LAW STUDENT REALLY NEEDS TO KNOW: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LAW" BY TRACEY E. GEORGE AND SUZANNA SHERRY (3RD EDITION WOLTERS KLUWER 2020). THIS TEXT IS PROVIDED TO YOU COMPLEMENTS OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW.

THIS COURSE ALSO BUILDS UPON A 14-DAY FLEXIBLE/OPTIONAL BUT STRONGLY RECOMMENDED "LAWYERING FUNDAMENTALS" ONLINE COURSE. OPTIMALLY, LAWYERING FUNDAMENTALS WILL BE COMPLETED BY YOU DURING ANY 14-DAY WINDOW OF YOUR CHOOSING PRIOR TO THE START OF THE FIRST INTRODUCTION TO LAW CLASS.

YOUR GRADE IS BASED UPON AN OPEN BOOK FINAL EXAMINATION THAT SHOULD TAKE YOU APPROXIMATELY 2-5 HOURS TO COMPLETE. YOU WILL HAVE 72 HOURS TO COMPLETE THE FINAL EXAMINATION.

(4) LEARNING OUTCOMES:

AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE STUDENTS WILL:

- UNDERSTAND HOW TO READ AND ANALYZE CASES AND STATUTES.
- UNDERSTAND HOW TO IDENTIFY RELEVANT LEGAL RULES APPLICABLE TO LEGAL ISSUES, INCLUDING SYNTHESIZING MULTIPLE AUTHORITIES INTO A COHESIVE RULE.
- UNDERSTAND HOW TO IDENTIFY LEGALLY SIGNIFICANT FACTS APPLICABLE TO EACH TORT ISSUE.

- UNDERSTAND HOW TO APPLY RELEVANT LEGAL RULES TO THE LEGALLY SIGNIFICANT FACTS.
- LEARN TO DRAW APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS BASED ON THE FACTS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPACT ON PUBLIC POLICY AND CLIENT'S INTERESTS.
- UNDERSTAND THE MANNER IN WHICH THE COMMON LAW EVOLVES.
- UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STATUTE AND JUDGE-MADE LAW.
- UNDERSTAND MANY FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS OF SUBSTANTIVE LAW.
- ENGAGE IN VERBAL AND NON-VERBAL CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION IN A MANNER THAT IS EFFECTIVE, COLLEGIAL AND CONSIDERATE TO DIVERSE AUDIENCE.
- SUCCESSFULLY CONVEY IN WRITING, IN THE CONTEXT OF A FINAL EXAM, AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF THE RULES OF LAW.

(5) COURSE PREPARATION:

BE ADVISED THAT THE REQUIRED COMPONENT OF THIS COURSE IS INTENSIVE AND REQUIRES A LARGE TIME COMMITMENT. FOR TIME MANAGEMENT PURPOSES, PLEASE EXPECT THAT THE READING ASSIGNMENTS, CLASS EXERCISES, AND PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL EXAMINATION, WILL TAKE YOU APPROXIMATELY 7-8 HOURS PER CLASS, OR APPROXIMATELY 28-32 HOURS FOR THE WEEK. STUDENTS MAY PREPARE IN ADVANCE BY READING THE TEXTBOOK AND THINKING THROUGH THE SUGGESTED EXERCISES. STUDENTS SHOULD ADDITIONALLY EXPECT TO SPEND APPROXIMATELY 4-6 HOURS ON THE FINAL. THE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED LAWYERING FUNDAMENTALS COMPONENT INVOLVES 14 HOURS OF MODULE INSTRUCTION, AND ADDITIONAL TIME TO COMPLETE THE READING AND CORRESPONDING ASSIGNMENTS.