

Torts I Syllabus (v. 1.0)

1. **Class meetings.** The class will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in rooms 120-21.

2. **Requirements.** Your final grade will be based on the final examination and satisfactory completion of the exercises. If you turn in 80% of the exercises on time, your final grade will be the same as your final examination grade. If you fail to turn in 80% of the exercises on time, your final grade will be your final examination grade less one-third of a grade point, e.g., a "B+" would become a "B." You should turn in your exercise answers at the beginning of the class sessions for which they are assigned or, prior to this time, by fax (703-993-8058) or email addressed to my assistant Sarah Louppe.

3. **Office hours.** Regular office hours are Wednesdays, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. My office room number is Rm. 209. If this time is inconvenient for you, you may schedule an alternative time with Ms. Louppe. Her telephone number is 703-993-8006.

4. **Questions and problems.** If you have a question or problem, you may call or email Ms. Louppe or me. My email address is mgrady@gmu.edu. Ms. Louppe's e-mail address will be forthcoming.

5. **Required course materials.** The required course materials will all be available in the copy center and on TWEN. There will be three different types of material: Cases and Materials on Torts ("casebook"); Exercises on Torts; and, Readings on Torts.

6. **Subjects.** Torts is a two-semester course (Torts I and Torts II). This semester (Torts I) we will cover strict liability and intentional torts and begin our study of negligence. Next semester (Torts II) we will complete our study of negligence.

7. **Casebook, exercises, readings.** Here is a table describing the casebook chapters, exercises, and readings that we will cover this semester. (There may be a few minor changes and additions.)

Casebook	Exercises	Readings
Ch. 1: Strict Liability vs. Negligence	Ex. 1: How Common Law Evolves	
	Ex. 2: Strict Liability vs. Negligence Problems I	
	Ex. 3: Strict Liability vs. Negligence Problems II	
Ch. 2: Intentional Torts: The Prima Facie Case	Ex. 4: Voluntary-Act Element of Battery	
	Ex. 5: Battery Problems	

Casebook	Exercises	Readings
	Ex. 6: Using Cases Without Glosses	
	Ex. 7: Intentional Torts Problems	
Ch. 3: Intentional Torts: Privileges	Ex. 8: Defense of Property with Dangerous Instrumentalities	Ch. 1: The Case Method
Ch. 4: Duty	Ex. 9: Introduction to Negligence Analysis	Ch. 2: Legal Reasoning
	Ex. 10: Duty Problems I	Ch. 3: Legal Science
	Ex. 11: Duty Problems II	

8. Assignments. Approximate assignments for Chapter 1 of the coursebook can be found below. I will make changes to the assignments during class. During the semester, a schedule of current assignments will be posted on TWEN.

Date	Assignment
August 18	Casebook Chapter 1 through page 18; no Exercise due.
August 20	Casebook Chapter 1, through page 28; no Exercise due.
August 25	Casebook Chapter 1, through page 47; Exercise 1.
August 27	Casebook Chapter 1, through page 59; no Exercise due.
September 1	<i>No class.</i>
September 3	Casebook Chapter 1, through page 77; Exercise 2.
September 8	Finish Casebook Chapter 1; Chapter 2, through page 98; Exercise 3.

9. Readings. The readings are an important part of the course. You will be responsible for the readings contained in the separate chapters devoted exclusively to them (“The Case Method,” etc.), as well as shorter readings contained in the casebook.

10. Collaboration on exercises. You may work with others in preparing your answers to the exercises, but you may not simply copy someone else’s answers.

11. TWEN. All course materials (casebook chapters, exercises, and readings) will be posted to Westlaw’s TWEN. You may make copies for yourself and your own derivative works. In fact, the principal purpose of these postings is to allow you more efficiently to develop your own notes, tables, and other study materials.

12. Course objectives. The course has three major objectives: (1) to teach you the principles of tort law; (2) to teach you the methods of case analysis; (3) to expose you to the leading scholarly ideas concerning tort law and the case method.