SYLLABUS

COURSE FOCUS: This 7-credit hour autumn/winter course introduces first year students to the rules of law that establish the nature and extent of liability for private wrongs (in contrast to public wrongs; the subject of criminal law). Course coverage will include intentional torts, negligence, strict liability and an introduction to products liability, along with the related concepts of causation and damages. Note: defamation, privacy, fraud, misrepresentation and certain “commercial” torts are covered in the optional Torts II course in the second or third year.

Most readings will be taken from the casebook. Additional readings may be taken from materials which are handed out in class or posted on the course Canvas web site (see below).

COURSE CANVAS WEB SITE: I will occasionally post supplemental material on the Canvas page: https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/990833. Caution: these supplemental materials—most or which will be drawn from Washington statutes or cases—will be selected to illustrate additional statutes, rules or cases that bear on the concepts discussed in the casebook. They are not necessarily complete or current and should not be relied on for authority outside of this class.

COURSE METHOD: The principal instructional method will be in-class analysis and discussion of selected cases and problems by students. Grades for the course will be based on a mid-course exam at the end of autumn quarter (20%) and a comprehensive final examination (80%), as adjusted for meritorious class preparation and participation.

CLASSROOM USE OF TECHNOLOGY: You may use your personal technology devices in class only for class-related purposes. You may not use them for any use not directly related to the class. Please be certain your cell phone is turned off before class begins.

DISABILITY-RELATED NEEDS: To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact UW’s Disability Resources for Students (DRS), 448 Schmitz, (206) 543-8924 (V), (206) 543-8925 (TTY). If you have a letter from DRS, please present the letter to the law school’s Office of Academic Services, which will notify me of any accommodations you might need in this class.

READING ASSIGNMENTS: The first week’s reading assignments are posted on the course Campus “Assignments” web page. Subsequent reading assignments will be announced in class.

LAW SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY: The success of this course and your performance on exams depends on your attendance and participation. Consistent with the Law School Attendance Policy (and ABA standards), any student who has failed to attend at least 80% of the class sessions will be dropped from the course and not allowed to take the final exam. Alternatively, I may at my sole discretion lower the grade of the student by one full letter grade. Please notify me not later than 8:00 AM of the class day if you will unavoidably miss that class. Failure to timely notify me will result in the absence being charged as unexcused. Because attendance is required I do not record or Podcast regularly scheduled classes.
NOTES ON EXAMINATIONS

At the end of Autumn Quarter, you will be given a 2 hour exam. It will count for 20% of your final grade in the course. The final exam at the end of Winter Quarter will be three-hours long. It will count for 80% of your course grade.

The scope of the exams includes all assigned readings, whether the readings were covered in class or not. It also includes any information handed out or discussed in class (including the exercises), whether taken from the readings or not.

The following instructions will be given in the exams:

This is an open-book examination. While taking the exam you may refer to the Henderson Casebook assigned in the course syllabus (note that you will not be able to access an “e-Copy” of the book or any other files stored on your computer) and any supplemental materials that were posted for you on the course web site (and which you printed out before the exam). You may also refer to materials handed out in class and an outline you prepared personally or as a member of a study group and a legal dictionary. You may not refer to any other materials, consult with anyone, access files on your computer or open an Internet connection while taking the exam.

You may use a computer to type your exam, but it must: (1) have the current version of Exam4© software installed and operating in the CLOSED mode, and (2) be used in accordance with the Use of Computers on Exams policy. http://www.law.washington.edu/Students/Academics/Exams.aspx.