

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS SCHOOL OF LAW

Professor Vischer
Office: room 439
Email: rkvischer@stthomas.edu
Office telephone: (651) 962-4838

Fall 2010

TORTS -- Syllabus

This course has two primary objectives: first, teach you the fundamental principles and theories of tort law; and second, through the discussion and application of those theories and principles, help you to develop your analytical and critical thinking skills, which are essential to the work of the lawyer.

Our class meets in room 235 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 to 10:15. The required casebook for this class is *Prosser, Wade and Schwartz's Torts* (12th edition). Your grade will be based on a midterm examination (10%) and a final examination (90%). I expect students to attend every class. If you have to miss a class, please let me know beforehand. I may adjust upward a student's grade for consistently exceptional contributions to our class discussions, and I may adjust downward a student's grade for repeated failures to prepare adequately for class. These adjustments will not be common.

Qualified students with documented disabilities who may need classroom accommodations should make an appointment with the Enhancement Program – Disability Services office. Appointments can be made by calling 651-962-6315.

Following is the planned sequence of readings and discussion topics. I generally keep up to date with the syllabus, but you should be prepared for occasional adjustments, depending on our progress.

Introduction

8/30 1-16

Intentional Torts

9/1 17-30

9/3 30-41

9/8 41-51

9/10 51-68

9/13 68-86

Privileges

9/15 92-104

9/17 104-120

9/20 120-132

Negligence

9/22 133-145

9/24 145-166

9/27 166-186

9/29 187-208

10/1 208-218, 224-230

10/4 230-245

10/6 245-267

Causation in fact

10/8 268-290

10/11 MIDTERM

10/13 291-302

10/15 NO CLASS

Proximate Cause

10/25 303-318

10/27 319-336

10/29 336-356

11/1 356-368

Defenses

11/3 609-625

11/5 625-646

11/8 647-662

11/10 662-687

Damages

11/12 543-554

11/15 566-585

Wrongful Death/Survival

11/17 586-604

Vicarious Liability

11/19 688-705

Joint Tortfeasors

11/22 374-389

11/24 396-408

Strict Liability

11/29 719-737

Products Liability

12/1 745-760

12/3 760-776

12/6 786-794, 799-804

Compensation Systems

12/8 1229-1241