OVERVIEW: This course surveys the fundamentals of the U.S. legal system and process, its evolution and the social policy needs of our society. It will introduce several substantive areas of law, with a particular focus on contracts and applications of traditional legal concerns in emerging technology policy contexts, and will conclude with an introduction to America’s place in the legal world order.

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Emily Jiang, jiangem@wharton.upenn.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 1:30-2:30, Wednesday 4:30-5:30, or send me an email (and it’s not a bad idea to send me an email if you’re thinking of coming by regardless – I’m open for business Wednesday afternoon, but capable of drifting off to the coffee machine). I’m happy to meet on most other days of the week.

MATERIALS: A set of readings customized for this course, available on Canvas. I will add occasional additional readings over the course of the semester.

SCHEDULE: We have approximately 28 classes, and, as you can see, 25 topics to cover, plus some presentations by you. We may adjust the schedule as the semester continues. Nonetheless, you should plan to read the next assignment for the next class, even if we haven’t exhausted all discussion of the current one.

NO DEVICE POLICY: The use of laptop computers, cellular/smart phones, text messaging devices, or other such digital devices is not permitted during class. Any lecture slides I use will be placed on Canvas.

COURSE FORMAT: The course combines lecture, Socratic dialogue, and group discussion. Active class participation is expected. Excellent class participation, as determined by my sole discretion, counts as 10% of your final grade

GROUP PROJECTS: Later in the semester, I will put you in groups to draft comments on a current government policy, after which you will file the comments with the government agency. You will also present the comments, and the context for them to the class at the end of the semester. You can find some guidance on effective comment writing here: http://eli-ocean.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/2/files/Making-Your-Voice-Heard.pdf.
GRADING:
• Group Projects, commenting on a government policy – 22%
• Midterm exam – 37%
• Final exam – 28%
• Class participation – 13%

MIDTERM EXAM DATE:

FINAL EXAM DATE: December 14 @ noon (section 101-301), 21 @ 3:00 (section 101-007)

Class Subjects:
(Page number in coursepack, reading number on Canvas/Study.net)

1  Vehicles in the Park
   9-12, Reading 1

2  Introduction to the Legal System
   13-30, Readings 2 and 3

3  Speluncean Explorers – The Judge
   31-74, readings 4, 5, and 6

4  Civil Procedure – Litigation
   75-100, readings 7 and 8

5  Civil Procedure – The Jury
   101-138, readings 9-13

6  Property – Personal and Real
   139-168, readings 14-17

7  Real Property
   169-180, readings 18-19

8  Contracts: Introduction
   181-202, readings 20-22

9  Contracts: Consideration and the Offer
Contracts: Intent to Contract: Offer and Acceptance
213-232, reading 24

Contracts: Acceptance
233-250, readings 25 and 26

Contracts: Specific Performance
251-272, readings 27-29

Contracts: Damages
273-286, reading 30

Contracts: Limitations on Damages
287-310, readings 31-33

Contracts: Promissory Estoppel
311-334, readings 34-37

Contracts: Unconscionability & Review
335-340, reading 38

In Class Midterm October 25

Constitutional Law: Takings
341-358, readings 39-40 and the US Constitution, as amended

Constitutional Law: Separation of Powers I
359-398, readings 41-42

Constitutional Law: Separation of Powers II
399-418, reading 43

Administrative Law
419-456, readings 44-45

21 Statutory Interpretation
\ 457-478, readings 46-47

22 Public Law In Depth I: The Law of Insider Trading
  479-512, readings 48-53

23 Public Law In Depth II: The Law of Privacy
  513-538, readings 54-57

24 Intellectual Property
  539-578, readings 58-63

All Comments Accompanying the Group Presentations Are Due One Week Before the First Presentation

25 International Law
  579-614, reading 64

26 & 27 Comment on Government Policy – Group Presentations

28 Overflow and Review