

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

LEGL 2133 Torts

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite or corequisite: LEGL 1043 Introduction to Law or consent of program director

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Covers tort law and includes the topics of negligence, intentional torts, strict and product liability, personal injury litigation, and insurance. Investigation, legal interviewing, pretrial preparation, and settlement of tort cases will be included.

B. Additional Information

This course will instruct the students in the various types of tort law. Students will become familiar with the types of court documentation and the process of a tort lawsuit.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the different elements of intentional torts.
2. Identify the necessary elements of an action in negligence.
3. State the appropriate remedy for any tortious wrong.
4. Distinguish between compensatory, nominal and punitive damages.
5. Define the different types of affirmative defenses and state when they will be applicable.
6. Explain how a civil case progresses from the complaint to the appeal.
7. Write pleadings, motions for summary judgment, and jury instructions.
8. Given a hypothetical set of facts, state what tort has been committed.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will prepare legal documents routinely used in the area of torts law. Students will use correct legal terminology associated with tort law.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills - Students will identify the legal issues raised in a case or fact pattern as well as identify the rules that are relied upon to resolve the issues. Students will apply those rules to the issue or fact pattern and reach a logical resolution premised on and grounded in those rules.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues inherent in the practice of tort law.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. What is a tort?
- B. Intentional torts
- C. Negligence
- D. Vicarious liability
- E. Strict liability
- F. Products liability
- G. Insurance coverage