



SYLLABUS

Course Title	Torts
Course Number	PLS 354
Number of Credits	3 semester credits
Course Dates	8/13/18 – 10/13/18
Instructor	Jason W. Hayes, J.D.
Email Address	jason.hayes@doane.edu
Office Hours/Availability	Available for emails anytime. Texts and calls during normal business hours.
Phone Number	(402) 304-9414 for both calls and texts.
Textbook Information:	<i>Required:</i> Emily Lynch Morissette, <i>Personal Injury and the Law of Torts for Paralegals</i> , Wolters Kluwer (4 th Ed. 2017). ISBN: 978-1-4548-7349-5
Additional Course Materials	N/A
Course Description	An examination of the remedies provided by law for recourse when an injurious act is committed by one person or entity against another. Students learn 1) the basic differences between criminal law and tort law, 2) the distinguishing features of intentional torts, negligence torts, and strict liability torts, 3) the elements for a cause of action; 4) the determining factors for foreseeability, cause in fact, and proximate cause; and 5) the categories of basic business torts.

Program Outcomes	<p>a. Analyze a problem, identify and evaluate alternative solutions, and logically formulate and evaluate final solutions to problems and arguments in support of specific positions; b. Categorize, prioritize, organize, and utilize information;</p> <p>c. Develop legal writing skills; d. Know and understand the organization and operation of the American legal system; e. Know and understand the ethical responsibilities that have been established by statutes, court decisions, and court rules affecting paralegal/legal assistants and lawyers; f. Know the basic forms and functions of business organization; g. Know and understand the civil and criminal litigation process; h. Develop the knowledge and skills to form valid contracts and determine the rights and obligations of the various parties to contracts; and, i. Understand the concept of negligence, duty, breach, proximate cause, intentional torts, and strict liability.</p>
Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives	<p>After completing the course instruction, the student should have a heightened awareness of the component parts and processes of Tort civil litigation. This awareness will be achieved by mastering the following areas contained within the course material: 1. Basic differences between criminal law and tort law;</p> <p>2. Distinguishing features of intentional torts, negligence torts, and strict liability torts; 3. Elements for a cause of action; 4. Determining factors for foreseeability, cause in fact, and proximate cause; and, 5. Categories of basic business torts.</p>
Technology Requirements	<p>https://www.doane.edu/fag/minimum-computer-requirements</p>

Course Schedule

Week or Module	Topic	Content	Assessments Matched to Learning Outcomes	Due Date & Time
August 16	No Class			
August 23	Introduction to Torts; Negligence: Duty	Chapters 1 and 2		
August 30	Negligence: Breach of Duty and Causation of Injury	Chapters 3 and 4		Pick tort assignment topic

September 6	Negligence: Damages and Special Issues	Chapters 5 and 6		
September 13	The Defenses of Negligence; Medical Malpractice	Chapters 7 and 8		
September 20	Intentional Torts to Persons and Property	Chapters 9 and 10		
September 27	Defenses to Intentional Torts and Immunities; Strict and Products Liability	Chapters 11 and 12	Final exam handed out	Tort Assignment due by 6 p.m.
October 4	No Class			
October 11	No Class			Final Exam due by 6 p.m.

Grading Assessments

Type of Assessment	Points	Total possible points
Tort Assignment: The student will choose a topic and write a paper regarding a specific tort action that he or she finds of interest. The topic should encompass an area of tort law regarding substantive content, and should include case law and statutory materials as reference sources. (Paper should be no greater than 5 pages).	100 points	100 points out of 300 points
Final Examination: The exam will consist of essays and short answer questions that will	200 points	200 points out of 300 points

cover the entire content of the course. The exam will be a take home test.		
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Grade Scale The grading scale is based on a nine-point, A, B, C, D, F scale, as follows:

A+	100 – 96	A	95 – 90	B+	89 – 85	B	84 – 80
C+	79 – 75	C	74 – 70	D+	69 – 65	D	64 – 60
F	59 – below						

Participation Policy	A student is expected to be prompt and regularly attend on-ground classes in their entirety. Regular engagement is expected for online courses. Participation in class discussions is an integral part of your grade. Student attendance at all class meetings is expected. If a student will be unable to attend a class meeting, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor and perform any necessary makeup or additional assignments given to the student by the instructor. Students should obtain class notes from a fellow classmate, and the absent student is responsible for all material covered on the day of the absence. <u>Two or more unexcused absences may result in a failing grade.</u>
Study Time	Expectation of the amount of time the course requires students to spend preparing and completing assignments. Typically, students could expect to spend approximately 12 hours a week preparing for and actively participating in this 8-week 3 credit hour course. This actual time for study varies depending on students' backgrounds.
Late Work	Assignments that are turned in late during the duration of the course are downgraded by one letter grade. For each additional week the assignment is late, an additional letter grade is reduced off the original score given. The federal requirement states that students must complete 75% of the coursework in order to receive an incomplete grade. If students fall more than two weeks behind, they cannot meet this requirement.
Submitting Assignments	Assignments may be submitted by email or in person during a classmeeting. All assignments must be completed and handed in by Oct. 11, 2018 to receive <u>any</u> credit.
Format of Writings	All assignments <u>should be typed</u> , double spaced, with one-inch margins, and using a font no larger than 12 pt. in Times New Roman, Arial or Courier. If you have any questions regarding this requirement, please contact your instructor.

Communication Policy including Assignment Feedback	Student may expect a response within 24 hours for all email communication. Assessments completed while the course is in session will be graded before the next class meeting. Assessments completed at the conclusion of the course will be graded prior to the last day for registrar grade submission, and will be placed in the instructor's third floor mailbox in sealed envelopes at that time.
Academic Integrity Policy	New Academic Integrity Policy to be released AUTM 2018
Academic Support	Please contact academicsupport@doane.edu https://www.doane.edu/graduate-and-adult/academic-support
Disability Services	https://www.doane.edu/disability-services Doane University supports reasonable accommodations to allow participation by individuals with disabilities. Any request for accommodation must be initiated by the student as soon as possible. Each student receiving accommodations is responsible for his or her educational and personal needs while enrolled at Doane University. Please contact Chris Brady at chris.brady@doane.edu or 402-467-9031 for assistance.
Military Services	https://www.doane.edu/graduate-and-adult/military
Anti-Harassment Policy	http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=452
Grade Appeal Process	http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=238
Credit Hour Definition	Doane University follows the federal guideline defining a credit hour as one hour (50 minutes) of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks (one semester), or the equivalent amount of work over a different time period (e.g., an 8-week term). This definition applies to courses regardless of delivery format, and thus includes in-person, online, and hybrid courses (combination of in-person and online). It also applies to internship, laboratory, performance, practicum, research, student teaching, and studio courses, among other contexts.
Syllabus Changes	Circumstances may occur which require adjustments to the syllabus. Changes will be made public at the earliest possible time.

