

# Course Syllabus

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**Department** : Legal Assistant  
**Course Title** : Torts and Personal Injury Law  
**Section Name** : LGLA 2303  
**Start Date** : 08/22/2011  
**End Date** : 12/09/2011  
**Modality** : ONLINE  
**Credits** : 3 hours

## Instructor Information

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**Name** : Kayla Zeigenbein  
**OC Email** : kzeigenbein@odessa.edu  
**OC Phone #** : (432) 335-6485

Office Hours for Fall 2011

Monday - 10:00 - 12:00  
Tuesday - 8:00 - 11:00  
Wednesday - 10:00 - 12:00  
Thursday - 8:00 - 11:00  
Friday by appointment only

Monitored and open labs available daily. Help from the instructor is available at your request. Appointments can be set up or you may contact instructor during office hours. Tutoring is available through the LRC.

## Course Description

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This course presents fundamental concepts of the law of wills, trusts and probate administration with emphasis on the paralegal's role.

## Prerequisites/Corequisites

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None.

## Scans

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(2, 6, 7)

## **Course Objectives**

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- 1.1 Describe the historical origins of insurance litigation and workers compensation.
- 1.2 Define key legal terms as they relate to torts.
- 1.3\* Identify major components of the insurance litigation and workers compensation.
- 1.4 Define the role of the paralegal in the torts litigation process.
- 1.5 List and explain the key documents in the torts litigation process.
- 1.6\* List and explain the function of the court system.
- 1.7 Compare and contrast the torts and workers compensation litigation process.
- 1.8 Define the role of the attorney in the torts litigation process.
- 1.9\* Define the existence of a cause of action.
- 1.10\* List the techniques for interviewing a witness.

\*INDICATES INTEGRATED, CORE CURRICULUM SKILLS

(Math, Reading, Communication, Technological Literacy and/or Critical Thinking)

## **Required Readings/Materials**

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Tort Law for Paralegals, Guay and Cummins, Prentice Hall, 1st Edition, 2010.

### Course Requirements (Lectures, Assignments and Assessments)

Dates	Assignment	Description
Chapter will open at midnight on first date listed and close at 11:55 pm on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> date listed.		
8/22 - 8/28	Student Information Sheet – Complete and submit	
8/29 – 9/4	Chapter 1 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz and test	Foundations of Tort Law
9/5 – 9/11	Chapter 2 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, test and discussion board	Litigating a Cause of Action in Tort Law
9/12 – 9/18	Chapter 3 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz and test	The Tort of Negligence
9/19 – 9/25	Chapter 4 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, test and discussion board	Proof of Negligence
9/26 – 10/2	Chapter 5 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz and test	Defenses to Negligence
10/3 – 10/9	Chapter 6 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, test and discussion board	Premises Liability
10/10 – 10/16	Chapter 7 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz and test	Intentional Torts
10/17 – 10/23	Chapter 8 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, test and discussion board	Misrepresentation, Interference with Economic Relations and Other Business-Related Torts
10/24 – 10/30	Chapter 9 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, test and discussion board	Doctrine of Nuisance
10/31 – 11/6	Chapter 10 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz and test	Defenses to Intentional Torts
11/7 – 11/13	Chapter 11 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz and	Privilege and Immunity from Tort Liability

	test	
11/14 – 11/20	Chapter 12 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, test and discussion board	Strict Liability
11/21 – 11/27	Chapter 13 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz and test	Product Liability
11/28 – 12/4	Chapter 14 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, test and discussion board	Vicarious Liability
<b>12/5 – 12/6</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>COMPREHENSIVE</b>

## Grading Policy

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Each week, I will provide grades or scores and comments on assignments within 6 days of when they were submitted.

Grading Scales	Grading Percentages
A = 4405 - 3965	Vocabulary Quizzes – 10%
B = 3964 - 3524	Assignments – 30%
C = 3523 - 3084	Tests – 40%
D = 3083 - 2643	Discussion Board – 10%
F = below 2643 points	Final Exam – 10%

## DEPARTMENTAL POLICY:

**NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED OR MAKE UP TESTS GIVEN.**

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## Special Needs

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

## Learning Resource Center (Library)

The Library, known as the [Learning Resources Center](#), provides research assistance via the [LRC's catalog \(print books, videos, e-books\)](#) and [databases \(journal and magazine articles\)](#).

[Research guides](#) covering specific subject areas, [tutorials](#), and the "[Ask a Librarian](#) " service provide additional help.

### **Student E-mail**

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

### **Student Portal**

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

### **Technical Support**

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at [https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk\\_form.htm](https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm).

### **Important School Policies**

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For information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or student's and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the [Odessa College Student Handbook](#).

### **Disclaimer**

**\*Students are responsible for checking for changes frequently as this syllabus may be updated often, as needed.**