

**Virginia Western Community College**  
**LGL 215**  
**Torts**

**Prerequisites**

Successful completion of all 100 level LGL courses or divisional approval.

**Course Description**

Studies fundamental principles of the law of torts and may include preparation and use of pleadings and other documents involved in the trial of a civil action. Emphasizes intentional torts, negligence, personal injury, products liability, and malpractice cases. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Lab/Clinical/Internship Hours: 0**

**Required Materials****Textbook:**

Torts and Personal Injury Law, Cathy J. Okrent, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (2010); ISBN: 978-1-428-32076-5

**Other Required Materials:**

Students will need a computer capable of accessing Canvas through the VWCC system. Students are required to use Canvas for this course.

**Course Outcomes**

**At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- Understand the public policy objectives for tort law in terms of compensating injured parties, holding wrongdoers liable, and allocating loss
- Construct an analytical formula to solve hypothetical problems by applying law to the facts of a case
- Recite the elements of negligence and explain each element
- Explain the theory of respondeat superior and liability
- Discuss negligence defenses and how they are used in a civil suit
- Identify the elements of intentional torts, both generally and for specific types of torts such as assault, battery, false imprisonment, fraud, invasion of privacy, and defamation
- Understand torts involving injury to the rights of property owners or possessors, such as trespass to land, trespass to chattel, and conversion
- Explain legal defenses that apply to intentional torts

- Differentiate strict liability from intentional torts and negligence actions and discuss the role that fault plays in strict liability cases
- Describe the elements and defenses in a products liability case and compare products liability with contract law warranties cases
- Understand the different types of nuisance cases and the remedies available
- Discuss the types of tort immunity, including sovereign, public officials, children and family immunity
- Explain the procedures that paralegals use to investigate tort cases

## **Topical Description**

Chapter 1: Introduction to Torts and Legal Analysis

Chapter 2: Negligence

Chapter 3: Special Negligence Actions

Chapter 4: Defenses to Negligence

Chapter 5: Intentional Torts: Injuries to Persons

Chapter 6: Intentional Torts: More Injuries to Persons

Chapter 7: Intentional Torts: Injuries to Property

Chapter 8: Defenses to Intentional Torts

Chapter 9: Strict, or Absolute, Liability

Chapter 10: Products Liability

Chapter 11: Special Tort Actions

Chapter 12: Tort Immunities

Chapter 13: Tort Investigation

## **Notes to Instructors**

None