

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, 4th 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